MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Before proceeding further, may I draw your attention, Sir, to the very low rate at which we are getting through the questions and answers in the list. There are about 300 questions to be answered and we have been getting answers only to seven questions, or so, a day.

PRESIDENT: The reason for this low rate at which we get through the questions and answers is that, as we are now at the general discussion of the budget, it would be advantageous to have the maximum time made available for it. The rate of answers to questions will be more rapid after the general discussion is over.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Thank you, Sir.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

PRESIDENT: We will now proceed to the general discussion of the budget for 1101. Mr. Subba Aiyar, would you like to open the discussion ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I have very great pleasure in congratulating the Government and Mr. George for the surplus budget that has been presented before the House. At the time when the current year's budget was discussed, all the members of the House, both official and non-official, had serious misgivings as to whether this year's receipts and expenditure, if balanced, would not end in a serious deficit. It is therefore very gratifying to learn that there has been a surplus of about Rs. 4 lakhs so far as this year is concerned. As for the budget for the next year, it is equally gratifying to see that the revenue is anticipated to approximate to Rs. 206 lakhs, I believe the highest ever on record, and the expenditure to about Rs. 203 lakhs, thus leaving a surplus of over Rs. 3 lakhs. It augurs well, Sir, for a new administration to begin with a budget of this kind. I hope it will be equally fortunate in having, in the succeeding years, a similar expectation so far as the budget is concerned.

Let me state at the outset, Sir, that I do not propose to say anything about the expenditure items in the budget, because, so far as they are concerned, they will be considered in detail later on, when the demands for grants are placed before the House. It is therefore my object to make at this stage a few general observations with reference to the other aspect of the budget, *viz.*, the revenue receipts. With regard to this, I mean to follow the line adopted by Mr. George, and make some observations on the more important topics.

In the first place, reference was made to the State-aided Bank. It is really very gratifying to note that the Government have at last sanctioned the popular request, *viz.*, to have a State-aided Bank. The concessions that have been accorded by the Government are, no doubt, liberal. They propose to meet the expenditure of the Bank for the next five years up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 annually. It is also proposed to grant the Bank a loan of Rs. 2½ lakhs free of interest and

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

another Rs. 2½ lakhs at a low rate of interest. These, I beg to state, are really very substantial concessions and it is therefore a matter for the public to realise the good intentions of Government by coming forward to take shares in the Bank, so that the whole scheme may be successful. Some have serious misgivings as to the fate of State-aided institutions in Travancore. But I do not think the State-aided Bank will be a case of that kind; because it is not a case here of Government entering into a transaction of their own accord. It is a case where the Government meet the popular demands repeatedly made in the Popular Assembly and in this House as to the necessity and desirability of establishing a State-aided Bank. Therefore, as I was saying, since it is in response to the wishes of the people that this institution has been started, it is bound to succeed; and I hope the Directors will take care to see that the Bank is so managed as to infuse into the minds of the people confidence about the stability and solvency of the Bank itself.

Passing to the Cochin Harbour scheme that has been referred to in the Financial Secretary's speech, let me say a few words.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar, may I suggest that you confine yourself to seeking information about this matter? We may not enter into a discussion of the merits of an agreement already entered into with the paramount power. That is outside our province.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I accept your ruling, Sir. As the matter is mentioned in the Financial Statement and as special reference was made by Mr. George to it, I thought it was intended to elicit discussion.

PRESIDENT: Government will be glad to give you any information, provided you do not enter into the merits of the case.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): So, I do not propose to say anything about the Cochin Harbour.

The next point that was pointedly raised in the Financial Secretary's speech was about education. I am rather aggrieved to learn that the Financial Secretary should say that so far as education is concerned there has been a headlong and impetuous career. I doubt whether it should be regarded like that. When he proposes that hereafter we should not go further and that steps should be taken to cut down the expenditure on education, there are serious misgivings as to the line of action that may be taken in that direction. I may be plain in this matter. However hard and however willingly and earnestly Mr. George may work at it, I doubt very much whether he will be able to make any retrenchment in the matter of educational expenditure. Therefore, I say he should not have contented himself by a mere statement that we have come up to the maximum limit so far as educational expenditure is concerned and that we must therefore take the necessary steps to see that there is a change of policy and a curtailment of expenditure.

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Now, as regards English education, I admit that collegiate education involves very heavy expenditure. It may be impossible for Government to cut down the expenditure involved on account of collegiate education. It is not possible for private agencies to cope with the task or to supply the necessary materials or funds on such a liberal and grand scale and I may say a necessary scale too. Therefore, collegiate education will have necessarily to continue to be in the hands of Government; and so long as we are under the Madras University, we have to work up to their model and satisfy their requirements. That being the case, it may not be possible to cut down the expenditure so far as collegiate education is concerned. It will not be possible to reduce the number of Professors or Assistant Professors or Lecturers or Tutors. Therefore, I do not know how it will be possible to make any reduction in the expenditure on collegiate education unless we get rid of collegiate education and thereby also get rid of the various applicants who worry the heads of departments with applications. I am not in a position to see how it will be possible for Mr. George to cut down the expenditure in that direction.

So far as secondary education is concerned, it will be equally impossible to cut down the expenditure because to have collegiate education there must be secondary educational institutions as feeders and it may not be possible for local bodies to take up secondary education. I believe, if my memory is right, at one time the Government made an offer that they would give up secondary schools if private bodies came forward to take them up. At that time, there were objections to that proposal from various quarters and many were not forthcoming to take up the secondary schools from the hands of Government. As such, I do not know whether any retrenchment would be possible in that direction either.

Passing on to primary education, I think it was Mr. Changanacheri Paramesvaran Pillai who, last year, insisted upon free and compulsory primary education which I may also concede is the duty of every Government. That being the case, if we accept that suggestion, it will lead to an increase in the expenditure and not result in any reduction. Therefore so far as primary education also is concerned, it may not be possible to secure any reduction in the expenditure. You may make changes in the methods of instruction in the educational institutions. It may be industrial or vocational and not literary, and yet you will require the same number of schools and colleges. Still I think the cost will be equally heavy, if not heavier. Further, my energetic friend Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai proposed that a University Committee should be appointed. Government accepted his resolution. A committee was appointed and every one of us is now in possession of a stout volume containing the report of that committee, which bears ample and eloquent testimony to the intelligence, knowledge, and indefatigable energy of our colleague, Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar. If we go in for a University of our own, it means certainly additional expenditure on education. To my mind, there is no use in saying that the expenditure on education should be cut down, because it is impossible to do so.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

There is no use in saying, "I have so many children, I should like to starve them in order that I may not have to find ways and means to feed all of them!" That is not what a good statesman should say. If the expenditure on education is growing, it is the duty of the State to find the ways and means to increase the revenues of the State. I do not think Mr. George would be successful in his attempt to cut down the expenditure on education.

Now, passing on to an examination of the question whether it is possible to increase the sources of revenue in any direction, the main head of revenue is Land Revenue. Under the Settlement Proclamation, I believe, Government have no power to increase the revenue for 30 years until the next settlement is over. It will take a good long time to increase the revenue in this direction unless it be that Government make some money, which is not worth the name, by the iniquitous or rather troublesome imposts like process fees. In this connection, Sir, I may draw your attention to that portion of the report on Land Revenue on page 9 of the *Administration Report* for the year 1099. It is stated there:

"Compared with the previous year, the number of cases in which demand notices were issued during 1099 and the amount involved rose from 2,79,722 cases to 5,17,178 cases and from Rs. 14,08,977 to Rs. 18,93,010."

In other words, the demand notices for the year 1099 seem to be practically double that of the previous year. That, I believe, is due to the fact that, of late, there has been a rule or an understanding—I do not know which—that the *Proverticars* or their peons need not go about for collection of the revenue and that it is the duty of the ryot to go to the cutcherry and pay the revenue, and that, if the ryot fails to do so, demand notices should be issued. Of course, demand notices may be issued if the ryot is not willing to pay or if he is a person who cannot be found or cannot find money for payment in time. So far as the coercive steps are concerned, whether it be attachment of immovable property or movable property, there has not been any material increase during last year, which shows that, even without demand notices, ryots would have paid the dues, if only the *Proverthicar* or the peon had been going about for collection of revenue. I believe the very same rule exists in British India. I know as a matter of fact that, up to the 10th of the month, the village officers do not go out of their offices for collection of revenue and that, after the 10th, the village officer—I mean the village Munsiff or the peon—goes about collecting revenue from the various ryots. There is no use wishing that the debtor should seek the creditor and pay him the money. If so, may I ask how many debtors do really seek the creditors for payment of the dues? The creditor must certainly go about seeking the debtor, demand the dues, issue registered notice if necessary and get his money. That being the case, I say, it will be well if these *Proverthicars* or the peons go to the various ryots and demand the revenue. If, in spite of that, any ryot fails to pay the revenue, *then* demand notices may be issued. Without

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

such a demand, I think it is rather too much on the part of Government to expect payment of land revenue by the ryots without any demand in person by the village officers and to issue demand notices in all cases however small the amount of revenue due might be. The increase in the number of demand notices from 2 lakhs to 5 lakhs is rather too much and five hundred thousand notices mean five hundred thousand fanams or 70,000 and odd rupees. It is really very hard because even a ryot from whom only 4 cash is due by way of revenue has to pay 4 chs. more for the demand notice issued to him. Therefore, this sort of income for the Government must be avoided as early as possible; and, if we do not have recourse to this source of income, there is no chance of having much increase in land revenue in the near future.

Coming on to Forests, there also we cannot hope to have much by way of increase in the revenue. Because, we have there stereotyped processes like cutting down timber and selling them, by means of which we can get some money if we have a good market and not much if the market happens to be dull. So, there is not much scope for improvement in forest revenue. Occasionally we hear of Forest Utilisation Officers. But they do not seem to be in a position to do much good, since the place is created and allowed to continue in existence only as long as there is a supernumerary officer available for the post. The moment a substantive appointment is available for the supernumerary, the Forest Utilisation Officer is appointed to the substantive place, and therefore, we do not have much of forest utilisation work. So, there is not much chance of any increase in the forest revenue either.

So far as Excise is concerned, I believe that, on account of the temperance movement, the Government should be prepared at some time or other to be without the abkari revenue, so that that is a revenue which is to come down, and therefore, in that direction, much cannot be expected.

In this connection, I may say that you find from the address of the Financial Secretary that we are going to have a rebate of Rs. 1·2 lakhs in opium and we will get about Rs. 50,000 on ganja. In so far as these two items are concerned, we paid full value and we did not get any rebate from the Madras Government. Our thanks are due to the late Dewan for having interested himself in this matter and secured to us this rebate. That also shows that, if our claims are reasonable and if we persist in a reasonable demand, the British Indian Government will not be slow to remove any injustice. I am not in a position to understand why Mr. George estimates it at Rs. 1·2 lakhs. I find from the last Assembly address that the estimate is about Rs. 2½ lakhs. I believe that the statement in the Assembly address is correct for the reason that on an average 4,000 seers of opium are purchased every year. The price is about Rs. 70 and we have now to pay one rupee per seer to the Madras Government. So the chances are that we may make a clear profit of Rs. 2½ lakhs. But I believe it is not intended that the usual quantity will be purchased this year, probably because some stock is left. Otherwise the figure ought to be much higher.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

So that then if we go by the chief heads of revenue, *viz.*, Land Revenue, Forest and Excise, there is not much chance of an improvement in any direction. The only other sources that can be availed of are Customs and Income-tax. These are the two sources, I may say, which, strictly speaking, do not affect the ordinary people. Income-tax is levied only from those who can afford to pay and customs duty is port duty on goods which go elsewhere. I do not therefore think there should be any hesitation whatsoever to impose these two taxes whenever that can be done with advantage.

In this connection, I may refer to a recent ruling of our High Court, so far as income-tax is concerned. It was supposed that the *Edavakais* of the State and the tenants in *Edavakais* will not come under the scope of this and it was supposed that they are exempt from income-tax. Out of the total area of the State, one-third consists of reserved forests, about one-third of *Edavakais* and the remaining one-third, of what we may call Government land or *pandarapattom* property. People living in this one-third area have to pay for all the amenities which a progressive administration can afford to the whole State. Therefore, it is only desirable that those who can afford to pay should pay the tax. The High Court interpreted "agricultural income" in a particular way and came to the decision in question. I am not for a moment questioning the decision at all; but the Income-tax Regulation was amended recently and the matter was made still more clear *i. e.*, that they are not liable. That was on account of the fact that some of the non-official members pressed and pressed very hard the matter and the Government yielded. But we now find from the result that those who can afford to pay the tax are benefited. It is therefore a matter for the Government to see whether it is not possible to revise the Regulation by putting in the necessary amendments.

There is yet another matter, Sir, to which I may draw attention, *viz.*, the imposition of export duty on rubber. I believe we have been having rubber cultivation for a very long time here; some time ago a duty on tea was imposed and at that time there was an agitation that there should be an export duty on rubber as well.

PRESIDENT: Time, Mr. Subba Aiyar.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I will finish in a minute.

It was thought that it was not desirable at the time to tax rubber because the cultivation or industry was in an infant stage. Last time Mr. Sankara Menon pressed it saying that rubber cultivation was in a thriving condition. The price of rubber has gone up. In Ceylon, both tea and rubber were simultaneously taxed. It was after that that we taxed tea alone. I do not see why rubber should not be taxed. There are about 40 lakhs of lbs. of rubber exported every year. At the rate of one rupee, the price will come to 40 lakhs of rupees. I believe that if we put an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent., we will get Rs. 4 lakhs.

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Mr. Van Ross has been very kind to raise the tariff value even in the case of mango planks, because there is considerable demand elsewhere. That is a very proper reason. Large quantities of rubber are exported elsewhere and I do not see why it should not be subject to an export duty. There is thus ample scope in these two directions for the Government to interfere and realise what money they can.

There is one other matter over which I will not take more than half a minute. That is with reference to allotment for markets. At the time when the Markets Regulation was passed, it was thought that, with the revenue raised, the necessary improvements would be made in all the markets by constructing buildings and making sanitary arrangements. But instead of that, the revenue is being absorbed in the general revenue. Every year I find something like Rs. 65,000 is being obtained by way of market receipts. Fifty per cent. at least of that revenue should be earmarked every year for the purpose of improving markets until all the markets are in good order. Afterwards it will be open to Government to take the whole money, and absorb it in the general revenue.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I may draw the attention of the member to the fact that this year we have provided Rs. 24,245 for improvements to markets.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Even that is not sufficient. We must provide more. This is all that I have to say.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, the Financial Secretary has presented the budget estimates for 1101 to the House with a lucid statement characterised by frankness and restraint. It affords a contrast to the melancholy forebodings of uncertainties with which he has ushered in the budget of despair in July 1924 and to the tone of optimism with which the budgets previous to those of 1100 were presented. That the year 1100 closes with a surplus may be a matter of gratification to the Government; but to those who have had opportunities of moving among the people and knowing something of the unprecedented economic distress caused by the floods of Karkatakam 1099, it denotes a deplorable lack of that intimate inter-relation which should subsist in an economically well-organised society between the finances of the State and the economic condition of its inhabitants. The days when statesmen thought that wisdom required annual additions to the cash balances of the State are long past; and so long as the surplus is attained not by economies in the machinery of administration but by checking the free utilisation of available funds for reconstruction and development work, the taxpayer has a legitimate ground for complaint. No doubt, it is an agreeable disappointment to find that the fears which Mr. George entertained have been thoroughly falsified both by the actuals of 1099 and by the revised estimates of 1100. The anticipated deficit of Rs. 3·77 lakhs proved to be a surplus of Rs. 4·06 lakhs in 1099. The revised estimates for 1100, which forecast a surplus of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Rs. 4·17 lakhs, are a considerable improvement on the originally budgeted deficit of nearly Rs. 1 lakh. In the coming year, the Financial Secretary proposes to continue his record for surpluses by saving Rs. 3·79 lakhs. If, however, the Financial Secretary or the Government implicitly believed in an era of surpluses, one fails to see why the *inevitable* expenditure on account of the expansion of education, in a country where the people are keenly alive to the advantages of education and are not unprepared to bear their fair share of the burdens in that matter, should have been characterised as the result of a "headlong" or "impetuous" career. Do the Government believe that the transactions of the three years 1099, 1100 and 1101 represent the normal state of affairs and that the normal growth of expenditure can be met by the normal growth of revenues? I must frankly state, Sir, that my conviction is otherwise and that the picture is not so rosy as is sought to be depicted. The necessity for separating the stable items of revenue from the unstable and fluctuating ones, for carefully surveying our revenue resources and for scrutinising our commitments with a view to standardise and limit the expenditure of Government on routine administration and to set free adequate funds for economic development and social reconstruction is, to my mind, as paramount as ever. Especially is this so when we take into consideration the sharp conflict of opinion between the Financial Secretary and the Head of the Administration. While the Dewan, in his address to the Assembly in 1925, assures us of a "brighter financial outlook and the natural all round expansion of revenue," the Financial Secretary chills our enthusiasm in his statement in the Appropriation Report (1924) that "The normal expansion of the revenues of the State cannot in future be very large," whereas "for expenditure we have adopted a standard which it will now be difficult to reduce substantially" but which "must necessarily go higher still." Again the Dewan asserts in his address that "it is clear there is no justification whatever for any pessimism in regard to our financial future"; but the Financial Secretary is milder and more cautious when he expresses his "hope that the improvement which the budget discloses is neither casual nor transitory but is an earnest of continued financial stability."

While, during the years 1094 to 1099, the normal revenue increased by Rs. 18 lakhs, the normal expenditure rose by Rs. 36 lakhs; the difference between the revenue and expenditure figures for 1099 and 1100 is also striking. While conceding that in recent years the expenditure has risen at a rate "somewhat faster" than the revenue, Government want to make out that the additional expenditure was due to increased grants to departments of public welfare. The claim does not appear to be tenable, as would be evident from the following statistics relating to the outlay on the P. W. Department during the years 1094 to 1101, which show that the percentage of expenditure to the total revenue of the State is not commensurate with the growth in revenue but is almost progressively diminishing.

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Year.	*Revenue.*	*P. W. D. Allotment.*	*Percentage.*
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	
1094 ...	174·91	23·68	13
1095 ...	178·72	27·38	15
1096 ...	185·36	33·80	17
1097 ...	191·87	31·42	16
1098 ...	190·80	26·06	13
1099 ...	192·96	28·27	14
1100 ...	205·00	31·00	15
1101 ...	206·00	28·00	13

Although the revenue had increased from Rs. 174·91 lakhs to 190·80 in 1098, the percentage of expenditure on P. W. works was the same in both the years; and in 1101, though a revenue of Rs. 206 lakhs is estimated, the allotment under Public Works works out at the same percentage as in 1094. This is a matter which deserves careful consideration.

If it is argued that the allotment under other departments known as the Development Departments has been increased proportionately to the rise in the total revenues, it has to be remembered that the bulk of the expenditure was incurred in the Education Department which accounted for an increase of Rs. 10 lakhs out of a total increase of Rs. 14 lakhs on these various departments during the period from 1095 to 1099. The allotment for public health and medical relief remained almost stationary during the period; and agriculture, co-operation and industries received altogether the benefit of only a third of the increase. Government, whose hands are forced in the matter of educational expenditure and who are "staggered" by the phenomenal growth of the expenditure thereon, would hardly claim that the increased expenditure is the result of any deliberate or considered policy or that the benefits conferred upon the State as a whole or individuals generally are commensurate with the heavy outlay. Funds wisely spent on well-considered schemes for the development of agriculture and industries in the State would certainly be a more profitable and prudent investment than either allowing them to remain idle in the State treasuries or even depositing them for short terms in the Imperial Bank.

The question of retrenchment has been discussed threadbare in this House; and yet the official mind has been unable to appreciate the view-point of this side of the House. Real and substantial economies in administration can be effected only by fundamentally altering the methods of work and the systems of procedure. Much is not gained by the abolition of a peon here or a clerk there. I fear that, as it is, Government service is, next to agriculture, the occupation which has got most people dependent on it; and the returns in that business are more certain, not being conditioned by the weather or affected by strikes. The tendency of Heads of Departments to ask for more clerks and peons so soon after the reorganisation or to recommend revisions of the existing scales is to be deprecated. In this connection, I should consider it fortunate that the question can comprehensively be tackled by one who

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

does not religiously believe that what obtains in British India should be necessarily copied here and who can examine the entire administrative machinery with a fresh mind well-acquainted with conditions of official work and points of view. Nearly 50 per cent. of the total revenues of the State is spent on salaries, establishment and contingencies; and yet the subordinate service, especially the vernacular school teacher, the *pakuthi* staff and the policeman, legitimately clamour for a living wage and the higher officers consider their salaries inadequate. It may also be noted that most undesirable disparities exist among the salaries of the several departmental heads, particularly in the salary of the Head of the Judicial Department and of other departments.

This disproportionate growth in recurring expenditure must necessarily force up taxation in due time. Anyone who has closely studied the economic conditions of Travancore will admit that at present the utmost limits of remunerative taxation have been reached. New taxes, both direct and indirect, have been freely introduced during the last quinquennium; and except in the matter of income-tax, such imposts have been made without consulting the people. There is nothing to prevent the Government from introducing their annual proposals for fresh taxation to the House in the shape of a Finance Bill along with the Budget Estimates for each year. An executive order raises the process fees and copying fees in the middle of the year; so too market dues are imposed, enhancement of the rates of *tharavila* and assessment is ordered, school fees are raised, the Anchal rates are revised, independent of the Council and without ascertaining the wishes of the people. My contention is that it would be well, even in cases where permissive power is given by statute to the Government to enhance existing rates or taxes, that Finance Bills should be passed in this House from year to year before giving effect to such proposals. This would also necessitate the development of the Standing Finance Committee which should be made a statutory body and should combine in itself the functions of the Committee of Ways and Means in Great Britain. This Council has at present no control whatever over revenue and no power to propose expenditure; it can only reduce the appropriation proposed by Government. The power to authorise expenditure and the power of taxation should be vested simultaneously. It will be then possible for this Council to reduce existing taxation that weighs heavily on the poorer classes and suggest the imposition of other taxes which would remove the inequalities and iniquities in the present incidence of taxation. Proposals such as the imposition of income-tax and export duty on rubber, etc., may then be profitably considered with a view to give remission of land tax or to reduce the Anchal rates. The usefulness of the Council can be tremendously increased and the efforts of Government towards improving the moral and material condition of the people can be ably seconded only if this House is endowed with real control over the public purse.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The list of sanctions made by Government under Section 16 (9) of the Legislative Council Regulation given on page 14 of the *Appropriation Report* for 1099 would show how shadowy the powers this House wields in regard to the Budget are. Some of the items of expenditure included therein can, by no stretch of imagination, be termed emergent. And coming as this does on the top of a long list of supplementary grants voted by the Council to the tune of Rs. 2 lakhs and of a much longer list of grants made by Government under non-votable items, one wonders whether much forethought is required for framing a budget.

I wish to draw pointed attention to the observation contained on page 14 of the latest *Appropriation Report*. The Financial Secretary says that, owing to lack of staff, he was not able to carry out the important and necessary work of a regular audit of expenditure against appropriation. This is deplorable; and it is small consolation to learn that "fortunately", to use Mr. George's own word, there was excess of expenditure only under "Stationery and Printing." This matter requires looking into; and I would suggest the constitution of a Public Accounts Committee on the lines provided for in the Government of India Act, or in the alternative the investing of the Finance Committee with the functions of the Public Accounts Committee as well.

There are one or two matters which I should like to mention before I close. The Development Departments should be placed on a sounder footing. Statistical triumphs in education are no good; education should do something more than add to the number of unemployed and unemployable. The actual results achieved in ameliorating the material condition of the people are and should be the only criteria for judging the necessity for retaining experts and the claims of the departments concerned to a share of the revenues. The services generally should be toned up and the subordinate services should be placed above want. Recruitment to the service should be regulated in accordance with a definite policy deliberately laid down and steadfastly to be pursued.

The plea that I ventured to make in this House last year about the necessity for us to urge for our representation on the Councils of the Indian Empire with a view to safeguard our common interests has been supported elsewhere. The Dewan of Mysore has, in his address to the Mysore Assembly, made prominent reference to the subject of representation of Mysore. Constitutional changes, possibly of a fundamental character, may perhaps take place soon in British India, and we should not omit to notice the march of events and secure our rightful recognition. The powers of indirect taxation which, by virtue of an ancient agreement, the British Government exercise over us, make such participation imperative in our own interests.

This, Sir, is the fourth annual Budget we are discussing in the expanded Council. The solid work which the Council has hitherto done, to which the late President bore eloquent testimony, entitles it to claim an extension of its privileges, powers, and responsibilities. For one

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

reason or another, the reform of the S. M. P. Assembly has been hanging fire. May we not hope, Sir, that it will be given to you to so co-ordinate and develop these two institutions as to form an integral part of the constitution of the State and to confer on the reconstituted popular chambers a real share in the administration of the country and thus take us on to the long-cherished goal of responsible Government.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): In the general discussion of the budget for the last three years, I had made certain observations regarding the necessity of ascertaining the national wealth of the State. But no statistics are yet available of our wealth nor does any attempt seem to have been made by Government in that direction. In the last Census Report, the Commissioner says:

"No organised attempt had been made in the past to collect statistics of rice and other food-stuffs grown in the country and the proportion of people served by them. The general census as taken in India supplies information about the growth, civil condition, education, infirmities and occupation of the people. The most important of the censuses *viz.*, the census of the economic condition of the people still remains to be taken. Lastly an up-to-date Department of Statistics has become a desideratum and it must be entrusted with the undertaking of the decennial census operations. In the interval, it will have to take economic survey of certain typical villages in the State and collect and publish annually all kinds of statistics, agricultural, industrial, commercial and vital."

In all progressive countries, there is a ratio kept up between the general revenues of the State and the wealth of the people. In considering the question of taxing the people, a fairly accurate idea of what they are worth is necessary. The Government have of late been imposing various kinds of taxes upon the poor ryots of the country without trying to see what they are really worth. The price of Government lands has gone up from Re. 1 to Rs. 25 per acre and in some cases even to Rs. 50 per acre and the annual land tax from 1 fanam to 15 fanams. Customs duties, salt duty, stamp duties, registration fees, court fees, school fees and Anchal charges have all been increased. To these have been added toll fees, license fees, market fees and municipal rates. The people are groaning under the weight of enhanced taxation. The State revenue has risen from Rs. 138 lakhs in 1087 to about Rs. 2 crores in 1099, that is, by 45 per cent., while the population which according to the last census stands at 40 lakhs increased only by 16 per cent. Working out these figures, we see that the average individual tax is Rs. 5. As we are not in possession of statistics, we are unable to compare the average wealth of the individual with the average tax imposed upon him. I therefore submit that a careful economic survey of the country should be conducted by Government as early as possible.

It is seen from the budget for the last three years that there has been a steady fall in the income estimated to be derived from the sale of Government lands. The budget estimates under this head for 1097, 1098 and 1099 were Rs. 4,78,600, Rs. 5,23,300 and Rs. 4,50,000, while the actual collection was less by over a lakh of rupees in 1097, less by

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

about Rs. 1½ lakhs in 1098, and by a lakh of rupees in 1099. This year also, it is anticipated that the collection will be less by half a lakh of rupees. These figures show that there was a decline in the demand for *puduval* lands, mainly due to the unworkable nature of the revised Puduval Rules. In the *Ayacut* Settlement of old, lands were classified, *taravila* fixed and tax imposed according to their productive capacity. But according to the present Puduval Rules, all lands in a locality, whether good or bad are taxed at the same rate and *taravila* fixed arbitrarily with an increased minimum.

Rules regarding the registry of what are called "town lands," whose extent has been recently increased, are harder still. The *taravila* fixed for town lands and the tax imposed upon them are out of all proportion to the annual income obtainable therefrom. The minimum tax fixed for town lands is Rs. 7-4 chs. per acre while the maximum tax is Rs. 571-12 chs. per acre. Can the framers of these rules point out, Sir, any land in any town in Travancore that would fetch an income so as to enable the holder to pay a tax of Rs. 571-12 chs. per acre? Again, the principle involved in the calculation of the tax on town lands is fixed by dividing three-fourths of their market value by 25. Thus, if the market value of a piece of land is Rs. 100, the tax to be paid thereon is Rs. 3. This would mean that 3 per cent of the amount invested is required for the payment of the annual tax. Ordinarily, the income derived by the land-owner from his investment does not exceed 4 per cent. Thus his net income only comes to 1 per cent. This is no doubt only a poor return for the hard labour of the ryot of this country. I therefore submit that the present Puduval Rules have to be thoroughly revised in the interests of both the Government and the people.

In this connection, I wish to draw the attention of this House to the sale of *poramboke* lands as well. A *poramboke* may be found anywhere at any time and it can be shifted, increased or decreased according to the whims of the officer dealing with *porambokes*. I am aware of instances where a certain Tahsildar has registered *poramboke* lands in the names of his friends and favourites without imposing any fine for encroachment, while in the same locality he has levied a fine in the case of others. Better scrutiny and supervision over the decision of these *poramboke* cases throughout the State is absolutely necessary.

The next point to which I would like to refer is a new source of revenue that has recently sprung up. This is what is called fees on demand notices for land tax. I am glad to note that this question has also been taken up by the Deputy President. Till the end of 1098, the number of such notices issued was comparatively small and they were issued only in cases where the tax had to be realised by attachment and sale of properties. But from the beginning of the last year, the number of demand notices has alarmingly increased. It appears that the *Pakuthi* Officers are instructed not to go out for collecting the revenue but to issue as many notices as possible. In Medam 1099, I happened to see some notices bearing serial numbers ranging between 22,000 and 23,000. In the last Council, I interpellated the Government for information regarding the total number of notices issued and the amount

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

collected under that head but could not get an answer. I have repeated the question. On a modest calculation, Sir, I submit that about a lakh of rupees has been collected last year and an equal amount this year also. Further, it may be pointed out that separate demand notices are issued to the same person who pays tax as per different *pattas* even in the same *Pakuthi*. I therefore pray that the issue of demand notices be reduced to a minimum and that the practice of issuing separate demand notices to the same person be done away with.

Paddy is the staple article of food in our country but its output is found insufficient to meet the demands of the population. The paddy produced in Travancore can support only 40 per cent. of the population and the quantity imported annually may support another 10 per cent. The remaining 50 per cent. of the population has to live upon other articles of food, mainly on tapioca. Hence the improvement of paddy cultivation has become a matter of sheer necessity. The chief defects in the system of paddy cultivation in the country may be briefly indicated. The lack of water conveniences stands very much in the way of paddy cultivation. Minor irrigation works are very often neglected. Head *chiras* and tanks which supplied water to fields or *elas* have been registered away and in many cases the side canals of fields have become so deep that water cannot be easily lifted from them to the fields. In order to remove these defects, Sir, much more attention has to be paid by the Government especially towards minor irrigation works. I suggest that irrigation boards be constituted in all the taluks to investigate the causes of the failure of crops and propose remedial measures to Government. Liberal sums have to be sanctioned by Government for the improvement of irrigation facilities, so that every year some tangible improvement may be made possible in each taluk. The present method of allotting some money for irrigation and spending the whole of it in one or two taluks alone is not at all proper.

Nearly 37 per cent. of the total estimated revenue is consumed by salaries and establishments. The *Appropriation Report* on the accounts for 1098 discloses the fact that, while, from the year 1093 to 1098, *i. e.*, within six years, the gross revenue has increased by Rs. 38,85,077, the expenditure on salaries, travelling allowance and office contingencies has abnormally increased by Rs. 5½ lakhs. This seems to be out of all proportion to the capacity and requirements of a small State like Travancore. Much of this expenditure, I presume, is due to the policy of giving enormously fat salaries to persons in the higher rungs of the official ladder. The necessity of having such big appointments may be attributed to efficiency, but efficiency maintained at such prohibitive cost is not to be desired. The abolition of many unnecessary and superfluous appointments and considerable reduction in the pay of several officers are possible in the higher grades of public service without in any way impairing the efficiency of the administration. The Financial Secretary also admitted in the last Council that further retrenchment was possible. This step alone would enable the Government to substantially increase

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the pay of the lower subordinates who eke out their livelihood with the small pittance that they get. The condition of the Vernacular school teachers may be cited as an example that deserves prompt attention. Though this subject was brought to the notice of Government by several members of this House in the last Council, no step has yet been taken in that direction. The pay of the Primary school teacher is only Rs. 14, a sum hardly sufficient to keep body and soul together. The teacher, unlike other Government servants in the lower ranks of public service, has to maintain a certain status and position for the proper discharge of his duties. He has to keep up a steady habit of book-reading and he is expected to be up-to-date in his profession. In these hard times, when the price of foodstuffs and other necessaries of life has gone considerably high, it is extremely difficult for the primary school teacher to make both ends meet. The Financial Secretary told us the other day :—

"There is staggering growth of our expenditure on education and as such nothing substantial is provided in the Budget for further development."

But I think he never meant by that statement that the poor Vernacular teachers should continue to starve for ever.

The pay fixed for the Headmaster of a primary school is quite inadequate, considering the nature of his work. There are certain primary schools in the State which surpass even the English High Schools in strength. For instance, the Town Primary School at Kottarakara is nearly 700 strong with about 20 classes. It appears to be an anomaly that the Headmaster of this school also should get only Rs. 17+2 just like the Headmaster of an average primary school with a hundred or hundred and fifty pupils.

PRESIDENT : Time.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : I will finish in a minute, Sir. I would therefore suggest that Primary Schools be grouped into two grades with respect to their strength and that the Headmasters of the stronger schools be given higher salary. Again, no peons are sanctioned to Primary Schools but only a scavenger on Re. 1 each per month whose work consists in sweeping or cowdunging the floor. It is idle to expect the scavenger to remain in the school throughout the day to be available to the Headmaster. It is a wonder to me how the Headmasters manage without peons especially at the time of class examinations when seats have to be arranged for the pupils. Probably this work is done by the Headmasters themselves in collaboration with their devoted assistants. (*Laughter.*) It may be that in many schools the Headmasters are saved this painful trouble on account of the paucity or even absence of benches and desks. So long as our Primary Schools are left in this deplorable condition, ill-furnished, ill-equipped and ill-organised, we cannot hope to derive any real benefit out of them though we may proudly say that the literacy in Travancore is above par. This sheer neglect of the Primary schools is, in my opinion, the root-cause of the gradual decline of Vernacular education in the State which is evident from the extremely poor results of the Vernacular School Leaving Certificate Examination year by year.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

Regarding the recruitment of teachers into the Vernacular School department, some observations have to be made. At present there are many hundreds of teachers in grant-in-aid schools who are left out of consideration by the Government. I submit that, whenever vacancies arise, such teachers should be drafted on to the Government service, due regard being paid to their professional skill, qualification and service. This measure would not only be an encouragement to them but would also effectually check the influx of raw men into the department.

Coming on to the English Schools, I have to point out that the Preparatory Class, and Forms I and II may safely be abolished. At present a boy who passes Class IV of a primary school is admitted into the Preparatory Class of an English school and in 3 years he reaches Form III and a boy who passes the Class VII of a Vernacular School with English as his optional may ordinarily join Form II in an English School and in some cases even Form III. Thus, there are two courses open to a boy who seeks admission to Form III of an English School. Since Malayalam is the medium of instruction up to Form III and since it is invariably found that the boy coming from Class VII of Vernacular Schools is better fitted for Form III, I would suggest that the first three classes of the English school be abolished and the boy allowed to continue in Classes V, VI, and VII, adequate arrangements being made for the better teaching of English therein.

Now I pass on to the appointments made in recent years in the Education Department; and in doing so, I shall quote some figures from the answers given to the questions asked in the last Council. The total strength of graduate teachers and Munshies in English Schools last year was as follows :—

Brahmin graduate teachers	139.
do. Munshies	39.
Christian graduate teachers	69.
do. Munshies	3.
Nayar graduate teachers	25.
do. Munshies	15.
Other caste Non-Brahmin Hindu teachers	13.
do. Munshies.	7.

Then again the number of graduates appointed as acting teachers in the English High Schools during the three years ending with 1st Dhanu 1099 is 53. Of these, 29 are Brahmins, 10 Christians, 10 Nayars and 4 other castemen.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Further, a caste-war statement of the number of applicants in 1097, 1098 and 1099 for appointments in English Schools and of the number of appointments made is given below :—

Caste.	No. of applicants.	No. appointed.
1. Brahmins ...	374	73
2. Nayars ...	320	24
3. Christians ...	298	33
4. Ezhavas ...	72	6
5. Mahomedans ...	34	2
6. Ambalavasies ...	29	4
7. Asaries ...	17	1
8. Tulu Potties ...	6	5
9. Nadars ...	10	1
10. Konkanastha Brahmins ...	8	1
11. Nambutiries ...	2	2
12. Vellalas ..	28	1
13. Kshatriyas ...	10	1

Again, out of 17 clerks in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, 13 are Brahmins, 3 are Christians and 1 is a Vellala who has since left the clerical line and in whose stead a Brahmin has been appointed.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Sir, while congratulating the Financial Secretary on the satisfactory Budget that he has been able to present to us, allow me to make a few observations. I congratulate Government on their endeavours to establish the State-aided Bank and on their participation in the Cochin Harbour, both of which subjects have been engaging the earnest attention and consideration of the public. Though there are misgivings about the success of these two schemes, I venture to suggest that, under the present condition of Travancore finances—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I rise to a point of order. Is the member at liberty to refer to the Cochin Harbour Scheme by way of congratulation?

PRESIDENT: I do not think he is referring to it by way of discussion.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is not an expression of opinion an expression of the merits of the case?

PRESIDENT: I am afraid that I have to rule you out of order, Mr. Thomas. I thank you, Mr. Narayana Pillai, for raising the point of order.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Looking at the budget for the coming year, we see that we are budgeting for a revenue of Rs. 206·87 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 203·02 lakhs. On a casual reference to the figures for the past decade, our attention is drawn pointedly to the phenomenal increase, both of revenue and expenditure. We see that both have been increasing to the tune of over half a crore. One may naturally ask the question, is it due to the increased prosperity of the country or is it due to clever and indirect imposition and enhancement of several items of taxation carried on with the object of showing a balanced budget? The land revenue remains stationary and the increase does not seem to be due to the inflation of profits of our commercial departments. It strikes even a casual observer of the country that there has not been any marked progress in the earning capacity and the savings of the rural population who form the backbone and marrow of the State. Our standards of living, cost of education, cost of the necessaries of life have increased out of all proportion. The country could not bear any more taxes. The general feeling over the country is that we are being harassed by several indirect and iniquitous imposts. The toll stations put up at every 14th mile on the main highways of the country are a constant nuisance. In addition to the Government land tax and income tax, we have the profession tax, vehicle tax, animal tax and several others of the same ilk. Municipalities are established where they serve very little purpose. The craze for so-called self-government, and the tendency to imitate the institutions of the West, the desire to come into line with other modern countries have lulled the people into a pleasurable sleep. The average tax per head of the population now works at about Rs. 5. This is excluding the municipal rates. We have no data to gauge the average wealth of this country. The necessity for a committee to enquire into the economic condition of the masses has been urged on several occasions in the Councils of the State and I repeat the same request for the consideration of Government.

The problem of problems in this country awaiting solution is the question of unemployment. On the solution of this depend the prosperity, contentment and peace of the whole country. The artificial and exotic system of education imparted in our schools is throwing out an army of workers on the country who disdain to walk along the paths of production and distribution their forefathers trod. All of them, as a matter of necessity, seek employment at the hands of the State. This cannot, in the nature of things, be satisfied. The seeds of communal strife are sown in our schools and fostered and whetted by the disappointment of our army of unemployed, half-educated people who impute all the ills that flesh is heir to, to the partiality, communal bias or cupidity of the officer who was the apparent cause of their discomfiture. We trust that, during the few years it has pleased God to entrust you with the stewardship of this State, this problem will be approached and tackled better by you with the help of your valuable experience of the institutions of the West. (*Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai: Hear, hear.*)

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

We have also been accustomed to find in the previous regimes of foreign Dewans that, when the sons and daughters of Travancore have been straining in the leash to find an entrance into the public service, even the ghost of a chance they have has been obstructed and the places sometimes monopolised by unnecessary importations from outside the State, from beyond the Ghauts for several years and from beyond the Cochin frontier occasionally. The black deep sea on the west has been alone in fact, except when exigencies of the service demanded, an unfailing protection against the inroads of foreigners into the public service of this country. Since the inauguration of this institution, you, Sir, are the first Travancorean to come into the exalted office of Dewan and it was mostly on that score and on account of the tradition and connection of your family with Travancore that the whole country welcomed your appointment with a wave of enthusiasm.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that arises from the Financial Statement. It is not relevent to the present discussion.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I refer to it as a question of policy.

PRESIDENT: I think it is out of order.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): May we take it, Sir, that, during your administration at least, there would not be any importation of foreigners either from beyond the Ghauts or from over the seas when there are in this country men of training, men of mettle, men who could be trusted to serve the country and Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent loyally and faithfully. We appeal to your patriotic instincts as a Travancorean and your sense of fair-play as a domiciled Englishman to hold the balance even, to see that justice is done in the matter.

I now come to the question of the development of the resources of the country. Travancore is essentially an agricultural country and its people are a class of intelligent, peaceful and hardworking peasant proprietors. During the past few years, the foreign trade of the country has greatly swelled, our exports in 1099 coming to the tune of Rs. 840·71 lakhs of which the price of cocoanut products, on which the buying capacity of our masses depends, comes to Rs. 2·20 crores and our imports 537·00 lakhs, thus bringing a total of roughly 13·77 crores. I do not take it that this is an unmistakable sign of the prosperity of the country. We depend for our staple food mainly on Burma and the adjoining Tamil districts and pay over Rs. 2·39 crores for the paddy and rice imported for consumption in this country. This, together with other adjuncts of food materials such as condiments, chillies, sugar, &c., makes up a total of over Rs. 3 crores. The wherewithal to purchase these bare necessaries of life has to be found in the yield of the cocoanut palm, pepper, &c., of which the cocoanut products alone bring annually Rs. 2·20 crores. Of the income from tea and rubber, the entire portion of the former and about 90 per cent. of the latter go into the coffers of big European companies or proprietors and do not touch even the fringe of our population. Deducting the income from these sources, the one

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. K. Thomas.]

main source of income is the product of the cocoanut tree, which is also in a very precarious position on account of the comparatively heavy tax thereon—averaging roughly Rs. 7 per acre and the export duty which works out roughly at 6½ per cent. of the price. (I have taken these figures from the *Statistics of Travancore* for 1099, summing up the duty realised from this source in the several chowkeys; and hence I am open to correction.) The devastating pests have also converted several of the richest portions of the country into unproductive areas. It is therefore the first duty of the State to devise measures for enhancing the productive capacity of our land and the earnings of its citizens. I am not unmindful of the fact that the Government have been trying to do something in the past but the results are not encouraging. I am sure that chillies and such other articles could be grown in Travancore. We are still importing into this country about Rs. 12 lakhs worth of this stuff annually. The dog-in-the-manger policy of reserving large areas of forest, the up-keep and conservation of which are costing the Government a large amount of money, and not allowing the same to be brought under the plough especially when people are struggling to get a plot of habitable land, does not appeal to us. It is high time the Government considered whether we cannot be self-sufficient in the matter of our staple food and whether we cannot ease the duty on the cocoanut products and encourage cocoanut cultivation as far as possible.

The members from North Travancore have been constantly urging Government to treat them on an equality with South Travancore which has the biggest irrigation work in the State. What we want in the northern portion of Travancore is not irrigation but drainage and easy traffic in *vallams*. The P. W. D. has to look into the matter and I suggest that every year a sum should be earmarked for this purpose.

Means of communication in North Travancore, especially the interior, have formed a constant subject of complaint. Of late, the Government have been devoting some attention to this matter. To keep pace with the requirements of the country, ryots in North Travancore have been cutting roads and giving the required lands free of compensation. But Government with its usual tardiness have been very slow in taking over these useful roads. The rules framed for the purpose do not suit the needs of the country. The Ryots' Roads Rules have to be recast to suit the conditions, and the roads already cut may be taken over by Government and maintained. In this connection, I would also urge on Government the speedy construction of the Alwaye-Kottarakara railway line.

It is a constant complaint that our expenditure on education has been increasing beyond the capacity of Government. But this increase in expenditure started with Dr. Mitchell's Education Code and the artificial efforts subsequently made to reach the cent. per cent. figure in vernacular literacy. If the department is to be worked on the lines of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the Code, we cannot but have a costly controlling and supervising agency. I think it is high time to say 'halt !' and to examine the provisions of the Code and see if we could not manage our education in a cheaper way. The curricula may also be overhauled ; and along with primary education some vocational training may also be given in our schools so that the higher Forms at least may be made self-supporting.

The major portion of English and Vernacular education may be entrusted to private bodies such as the Nayar *Samajams* or the Christian Missions by a system of grants which will considerably reduce the expense on education. I suggest that a committee of non-officials and experts may be constituted to examine the working of the Code and to suggest ways and means for reducing the staff, for satisfying the demands of the vernacular school teachers for higher pay and for minimising the State expenditure on education.

I may be allowed to say a word about the Revenue Department. The collection for the current year shows a decrease of Rs. 1½ lakhs and it is attributed to the last year's floods. I fear the cause mainly lies in the issue of demand notices and the coercive steps consequent thereon. It is noteworthy that the Government sprung a surprise on the poor ryots about two years ago by notifying that the *pakuthi* officials would not go from house to house to collect the taxes as was usual formerly. The ryots, who were mostly ignorant of this change of system, kept quiet in the hope that as usual the tax-collector would go to their houses to collect the tax. Demand notices were served on all the *pattadars* and the *Pakuthi* subordinates went with these notices to collect the tax together with the notice fee. This sort of petty exaction has been enriching the Government during the last two years. No explanation is offered as to what additional work was given to the *Pakuthi* servants to change the system of collection. If a *pattadar* has several survey numbers, separate notice was given to him for each of these numbers and this was served every time a collection had to be made. The *Pakuthi* servants inform us that their work instead of being reduced is only enhanced and the result is that there is a balance of Rs. 1½ lakhs still to be collected. I submit that this petty exaction should be put a stop to.

I beg also to point out in this connection that, in spite of what has been said and done by the Government, the grievances in regard to the Electoral Roll for the Council are far from being redressed. Every one on this side of the House knows that the roll is still not corrected or made up-to-date. I venture to suggest that, at the time of payment of *kist*, a sort of checking of Electoral Roll of each *pakuthi* could be conveniently done. The payment of the minimum fixed by any one voter must entitle him to be entered in the Electoral Roll and a signature of the voter or his agent may be taken indicating that his name has been correctly entered in the Electoral Roll. I cannot help observing that certain *pakuthi* officials deliberately give a wrong name in the rolls to help the candidate who has enlisted his sympathy in the election.

I may also be permitted to refer to another matter on which there is strong public feeling. The payment of tax on Kandukrishi lands in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. K. Thomas.]

kind has been causing hardship to the tenants and loss to the Government. A costly establishment has to be maintained. The *Nelpuras* or granaries have to be gauarded. Shortage and quality have to be accounted for. The system is not in keeping with the incidents of a progressive State like Travancore. We have reached such a level of commercial freedom that, if paddy is wanted for Palace or other purposes, the same could be secured in the open market without the least difficulty by giving it on contract. My request is that the *pattam* may be allowed to be paid at the market rate obtaining at the time when the *pattam* is due. Even at present, important *jenmies* of Cochin and North Travancore who can get their *pattam* as paddy prefer to get its worth in money. Why not the Government, which is the biggest land-holder, imitate these Jenmies, follow up what it has been doing in regard to the general land taxes, with this variation that the commutation may be made at the market rates obtaining from time to time ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : ഫ ൦ ൻ വ്യ-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് നിയമസഭയിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയപ്പോൾ ഒരു രാജ്യത്തെ ധന സ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റി ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറി ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:-

"We have just succeeded in making both ends meet but as already stated this result has been obtained by relentless retrenchment and avoidance of all waste and also by postponing the payment of a part of the claims of our stationery suppliers and Government have not been able to provide any reserve worth mentioning for meeting unforeseen expenses."

ഫ ൦ ൻ-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് നിയമസഭയിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു :

'In my speech last year, I gave a brief review of our financial position and I expressed the view that our financial outlook was not a gloomy one. The lapse of one year has only confirmed me in this view."

ഫ ഫ ൦ ൦-ാമാണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് നിയമസഭയിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയപ്പോൾ, ആ കാലത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്ന വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്താൽ ഇവിടത്തെ ധന സ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റി അപ്പോൾ ശരിയായ ഒരഭിപ്രായം പറയാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരികയും ആയാണ്ടിൽ അധികചിലവുവരുമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കയും ചെയ്തു എങ്കിലും ര ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പിനിടയാകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്.

നമ്മുടെ ധനസ്ഥതിയുടെ നിർദ്ദോഷതയെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടഭിപ്രായത്തിന്നവകാശമില്ലെന്നു ഫ ഫ-ാമത്തെ ശ്രീമൂലംപ്രജാസഭയിൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ഉപക്രമ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഉറപ്പു പറകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയുടേയും ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടേയും ഒരുമഭിപ്രായങ്ങാക്കു അനുരൂപമായിട്ടാണോ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ധനസ്ഥിതി നില്ക്കുന്നതെന്നു പരിശോധിക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ക ൦ വ്യ മുതൽ ക ൦ വ്യൻ വരെ--സർ. പി. രാജഗോപാലാചാരി ദിവാൻപദം കയ്യേറിരുന്ന കാലങ്ങളിൽ--രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവിൽ, ർ ൈ, ൈ വ്വ, ർ ൦ ഖ ശ്രുപായും ചിലവിൽ ൫ ൦, ന്വ, ർന ൈ ശ്രുപായും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഭരണകാലമായ ഏഴുവർഷങ്ങളിൽ ഖ, ൻ ൫, ൦ന ൫ ശ്രുപാ വരവിനെ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവു രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നിരുന്നാലും ജനോപകാരപ്രദമായ പൊതുമരാമത്തുജോലികളിൽ ക ർ വ്യന-ൽ നിന്നും ക ൦ വ്യൻ-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ക ൈ, ക ൈ, ൻ ൈ. ൦ ശ്രുപാവർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ആശ്വാസകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്.

ക ൦ ൻ൦ മുതൽ ക ൦ ൻ൫ വരെ—മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കൃഷ്ണൻനായർ ദിവാൻപദം കയ്യേറിരുന്ന ആറുകൊല്ലങ്ങളിൽ-രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവിൽ ന.ന്വ, ന്വ ഖ, ൻന്വ ശ്രുപായും ചിലവിൽ ന, ന ൫, ക ന്വ ശ്രുപായും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അക്കാലത്തു ഘോരയുദ്ധത്താൽ ഉണ്ടായധനസ്ഥിതിയുടെ അസ്ഥിരതനിമിത്തം രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിൽ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവുകളെ കഴിയും വിധം കുറച്ചുവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി ജനോപകാരകമായ പൊതുമരാമത്തു ചിലവുകളെ ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും വെട്ടികുറച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ക ൦ വ്യൻ-ൽ പൊതുമരാമത്തു വകുപ്പിലേക്കു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ന. ർ, ൦ ൦, ന വ്യ ഖ ശ്രുപായുടെ കണക്കിനു മിസ്റ്റർ കൃഷ്ണൻനായരുടെ ഭരണകാലമായ ക ൦ ൻ൦ മുതൽ ക ൦ ൻ൫ വരെ കണക്കാക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൫ ൦, ഖ ൫, ൻൻ വ്യ ശ്രുപായുടെ മരാമത്തു പണികൾക്കു ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നഷ്ടമായിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണാവുന്നതാണു്. ഒരു തുകകൂടി കൂട്ടി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഭരണകാലത്തു ഒരു രാജ്യത്തേയ്ക്കു ഒരു ഭീമമായ തുക അധികചിലവു വരുമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്.

ക ൦ ൻന മുതൽ ക ൦ ൻൻ വരെ—മിസ്റ്റർ രാഘവയ്യാ ദിവാൻപദംകയ്യേറിരുന്നകാലങ്ങളിൽ-രാജ്യത്തിലെവരവിൽ ക ർ, ൦ ന, ന്വ ന്വ ഖ ശ്രുപായും ചിലവിൽ ക ന്വ, ന്വ ന, ൈ ർ ൈ ശ്രുപായും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതായതു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഭരണകാലമായ അഞ്ചു വർഷങ്ങളിൽ ഖ, ൫ ൈ, ന്വ ൫ ശ്രുപാ വരവിനെ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവു രാജ്യത്തിലുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു ഭരണകാലത്തു, ഘോരമഹായുദ്ധത്താൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെധനാദായസ്ഥിതി കുറഞ്ഞിരുന്ന ഘട്ടത്തിൽ, അനേക തരത്തിലും അനേകവഴികളിലും ജനങ്ങളുടെ നികുതി ഭാരത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടാണു് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഭരണദശയിൽ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവിനെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

തിനും പുറമെ ക ൦ വ൯-ൽ പൊതുമരാമത്തുവകുപ്പിലേക്കു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്ന രൂപായുടെ കണക്കിനു മിസ്റ്റർ രാഘവയ്യായുടെ ഭരണകാലമായ ക ൦ ൻ ൪ മുതൽ ക ൦ ൻ൯ വരെ കണക്കാക്കുന്നതായാൽ ക ൪ ൨ന്നു ൨ ൯൨ രൂപായുടെ പൊതുമരാമത്തു വേലകൾം ൦രം രാജ്യനിവാസികൾക്കു നഷ്ടമായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ധനസ്ഥിതിയുടെനില തൃപ്തികരമാണെന്നു പറവാൻ ഒരിക്കലും നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ക ൦ ൻ ൪ മുതൽ ക ൦ ൻ൯ വരെ അഞ്ചു-കൊല്ലങ്ങളിൽ വരവിനെക്കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവു വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനു പ്രത്യേകകാരണങ്ങൾം ഉണ്ടെന്നാണ് ദിവാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ രാഘവയ്യാ സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

ഒന്നാമതായി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സമാധാനം ക ൦ ൦-൨മാണ്ടത്തെപ്പോലെ ക ൯ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ അധികചിലവു നേരിടാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ക ൦ ൻ ക-ൽ പൊതുമരാമത്തു വേലകളിൽ ക ക ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ജനോപകാരകമായ പൊതുമരാമത്തു തുറയുടെ അപ്രകാരമുള്ള ക്ഷാമാവസ്ഥ യാതൊരു കാരണവശാലും തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കാൻ അനുവദിച്ചുകൂടുന്നതല്ലെന്നുള്ള ഭരണതത്വത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി അതിൽ പിന്നീടുള്ള ആണ്ടുകളിൽ പൊതുമരാമത്തു വേലകൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ പണം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുമാണ്. ഈ അഭിപ്രായം തന്നെ എത്രത്തോളം സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവിടേയും ഇശ്ശാഭംഗത്തിനാണ് ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ക ൦ ൯-ലെ അധികചിലവിനെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി ക ൦ ൻ൩-ൽ നിന്നും ക ൦ ൻ ൯-ൽ പൊതുമരാമത്തു വേലകളിൽ ൫൨,൩൨൫ രൂപാ കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ക ൦ ൻ൫-ലേക്കും ആറേമുക്കാൽ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ക ൦ ൻ ൯-ൽ നിന്നും ക ൦ ൻ൫-ൽ പൊതുമരാമത്തു വേലകളിൽ ൩൨,ക ക,൯ ൫൦൦ രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കുയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

രാജ്യത്തിൽ വരവിനെ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതിനു മറെറാരു സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു് യുദ്ധത്തിനുശേഷം ജീവിതാവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു നേരിട്ട ഭയങ്കരമായ വിലക്കൂടുതൽ നിമിത്തം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളക്കൂടുതൽ അത്യാവശ്യമായി തീർന്നു എന്നും ഈ അത്യാവശ്യത്തെ നിറവേറെറിയതിനാൽ ആണ്ടുതോറും ൫ലക്ഷംരൂപാവീതം ചിലവു വർദ്ധിക്കാനിടയായി എന്നുമാണ്. പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസിലുള്ള ഗീഴ ജീവ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

നക്കാരുടെ ശമ്പളങ്ങളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലൊ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതിലൊ അത്ര ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനെ അഭിപ്രായ വ്യത്യാസമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. എന്നാൽ കീഴ്ജീവനക്കാരുടെ ശമ്പളങ്ങളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ, ഇവിടെയുള്ള ഉയന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളങ്ങളെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിലും അനാവശ്യമായ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളേയും ഉദ്യോഗസൃഷ്ടികളേയും ഇല്ലായ്മ ചെയ്യുന്നതിലും വേണ്ടപോലെ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാതെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ നടത്തിയതിൻെറ ഫലമായിട്ടാണ് ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ എട്ടുലക്ഷം രൂപാ അധിക ചിലവിനു ഇടയായി തീന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഓരോ ദിവാൻജിമാരുടേയും ഭരണകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ നടത്തണമെന്നുള്ള നിയമം അടുത്തകാലങ്ങളിൽ യാതൊരുമാന്ദ്യവുംകൂടാതെ നടന്നുവരുന്നു. ഓരോ ദിവാൻജിമാരുടേയും ഭരണകാലങ്ങളിൽ അവക്കു തോന്നുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസൃഷ്ടികളും അവക്കു തോന്നുന്ന ശമ്പള വർദ്ധനകളും നടത്തിയതിൻെറ ഫലമായി ഇന്നത്തെ ശമ്പള ചിലവുകൾ ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപായോളം എത്തികഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇടക്കാലത്തു നടത്തിയ പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളാൽ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മുഴുവൻ ശമ്പളങ്ങളും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരുമ്പോൾ ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളചിലവുകൾ എത്രയോ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണു്. അങ്ങിനെവരുമ്പോൾ ആ ചിലവുകളെ താങ്ങുന്നതിനു ജനാവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിപോരുന്ന ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കയോ, അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം പൊതുമരാമത്തു ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കയോ, അതല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതലായ നികുതിഭാരം ചുമത്തുകയൊ ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം ജനങ്ങൾ അധിവസിക്കുന്ന ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ഇത്രയും ശമ്പളചിലവുകൾ അധികമായിപോയി എന്നു പറയുന്നതിനു യാതൊരു വകാശവും ഇല്ലെന്നാണ് ഒരു പ്രാമത്തെ പ്രജാസഭയിൽ ദിവാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ രാഘവയ്യായുടെ ഉപക്രമപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവർദ്ധനയും, പരീക്ഷാവിജയികൾക്കു ഉദ്യോഗം കിട്ടാതെ വിഷമിക്കുന്നതും, ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസിൽ കയറുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി വരുന്ന സംകടങ്ങളും, പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസിലുള്ള ഇന്നത്തെ കായ്ക്ഷമതയും അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളവരാരും അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു യോജിക്കയില്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളചിലവുകൾ വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞതലാണെന്നു അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്.

കഴിഞ്ഞ അഞ്ചുവർഷങ്ങളിൽ വരവിനെ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവു രാജ്യത്തിനു വന്നുചേരുന്നതിനു പറയുന്നതായ മറെറാരു കാരണം റവന്യൂ ദേവസ്വം വിഭാഗത്തിൽ ദേവസ്വം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു ആണ്ടുതോ

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

രും ആറുലക്ഷം രൂപാ കൂടുതൽ വന്നതിനാലെന്നാണ്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ദിവാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ രാഘവയ്യാ ഇങ്ങനെപറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"Though, no doubt, this increased allotment had to be given, being legitimately due to the Devaswoms, it was in the past being utilised in other directions with proportionate relief to the State finances."

ദേവസ്വംവസ്തുക്കളേയും അതിലുള്ള ആദായങ്ങളേയും വേർതിരിച്ചു പ്രത്യേകം കണക്കുകാം വയ്ക്കാത്തതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ആ ഇനത്തിലുള്ള മുതലെടുപ്പിനെ അനേക കാലമായി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പൊതു മുതലോടുചേർത്തു പൊതുവെയുള്ള കായ്ങ്ങൾക്കായി ചിലവാക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾദേവസ്വങ്ങൾക്കു ന്യായമായി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതിൽ എത്രയോ ലക്ഷ വായ ഒരുതുക അവയ്ക്കുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവന്നപ്പോൾ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയെ ബാധിക്കുന്നതിനും ചിലവിനെ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവിനു ഇടയായിത്തീരുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു.

മേൽവിവരിച്ച പലേ കാരണങ്ങളാലും പലേ കണക്കുകളാലും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ധനസ്ഥിതി തൃപ്തികരമാണെന്നോ, അതിന്റെ ഉറപ്പിനെപ്പറ്റി ശങ്കിക്കുന്നതിനും ഭയപ്പെടുന്നതിനും അവകാശമില്ലെന്നോ പറയുന്ന വാക്കുകളെ അതുപോലെതന്നെ വിശ്വസിച്ചുകളവാൻ അധികം ആളുകൾ ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തു പലേ വഴികളിലും പലേ നാമകരണങ്ങളോടുകൂടി ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പിരിച്ചെടുത്തു തൃപ്തീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള രാജ്യത്തിലെ പൊതു മുതലിൽനിന്നും പൊതു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു വേണ്ടപോലെ പണം ചിലവാക്കി വരുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയാണ് ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളത്. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഫ്രാമത്തെ ശ്രീമൂലം പ്രജാസഭയിൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ഉപക്രമപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"On an analysis of the aggregate expenditure of the State in recent years, it will be seen that, while, in 1095, the Government were spending Rs. 61 lakhs out of a total re venue of Rs. 178·72 lakhs on the public welfare services under which category may be included education, public health, medical relief, agriculture, industries, co-operation and public works, the expenditure on these services by 1099, rose to Rs. 75 lakhs, the percentage of such expenditure to the revenue of the year increasing from 34 to 39. These are the most important among the factors that have contributed to a more rapid growth of expenditure over revenue in the last few years."

വരവും അതിലുപരിയായി ചിലവും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഓരോ ദിവസവും വർദ്ധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിനാൽ ഇവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാദായനില എത്രത്തോളം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു എന്നാണു പ്രധാനമായി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

നോക്കേണ്ടതു്: ആ സംഗതി അറിയാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഇപ്പോഴും യാതൊരു വഴിയും ഇല്ലാത്തതാണു്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമൈശ്വര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ഉപകരിച്ചുവരുന്ന പലേ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾക്കും ചിലവു വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതായി അഭിമാനിക്കുന്നതിൽ എത്രത്തോളം പരമാർത്ഥമുണ്ടെന്നു പരിശോധിക്കാം.

ഒന്നാമതായി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെപ്പറ്റി നോക്കാം. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസചിലവിനെപറ്റി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഫ ഠ ൻ ൪-ൽ നിന്നും ഫ ഠ ൻ൯-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൯൫ ല, ഠ ൪ രൂപാ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണു്. ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനും അതിലേയ്ക്കു ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്ന രൂപക്കും അനുരൂപമായ വിധം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാഭായസ്ഥിതി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനു സഹായിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ആണ്ടുതോറും പരീക്ഷാവിജയികളായി വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു പുറത്തിറങ്ങുന്ന യുവാക്കന്മാർക്കു പ്രധാന ഉപജീവനമാർഗ്ഗമായി നിൽക്കുന്നതു സർക്കാർ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളാണു്. അതു കിട്ടാനുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങളിൽ രാജ്യത്തിനും പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസിനും വന്നുചേരുന്ന ദുരിതങ്ങൾ ഓരോ ദിവസവും ഭയങ്കരമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഉദ്യോഗസമ്പാദനത്തിനുള്ള മത്സരത്തിൽ ഓരോ ജാതിക്കാരുടേയും ജനസംഖ്യക്കണക്കിനു ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ വീതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗം കിട്ടുന്നവർ അവരുടെ സജാതീയരെ പബ്ലിക്കു് സർവ്വീസിൽ കൂടുതലായി പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്നതായ പരാതികൾ നിമിഷംപ്രതി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കനുരൂപന്മാരായ ആളുകളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനു പകരം ആളുകൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളാൽ പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസിലേ കാര്യക്ഷമത കുറഞ്ഞുവരാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതാണു്. ഇതിനെല്ലാറ്റിനും പുറമെ ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്താൽ രാജ്യത്തിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുള്ളവരും തൊഴിലില്ലാത്തവരുമായ ആളുകളുടെ സംഖ്യ അപരിമിതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ഇവരുടെ വർദ്ധന ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ വലുതായ വിഷമങ്ങളെ ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീർക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസരീതിക്കു കാലാനുസരണമായ ഭേദഗതികൾ ചെയ്യാതെയും ആയതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനകരമാക്കി തീർക്കാതെയുമുള്ള വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു കഴിഞ്ഞ അഞ്ചു വർഷങ്ങളിൽ൯ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരംരൂപ ചിലവിൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്.

അടുത്തതായി പറയാനുള്ളതു് പബ്ലിക്കു് ഹെൽത്തിനെപറ്റിയാണു്. ഇതിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്ന സാനിട്ടറി, മെഡിക്കൽ ൦രം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ൻറുകളെ നോക്കാം. സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറ് സൃഷ്ടിച്ചതു ഫാമിൻ ഫണ്ടിലാണ്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആരോഗ്യസ്ഥിതിയെ പരിപാലിക്കുന്നതിനു ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറ് എത്രത്തോളം പ്രയോജനപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും അതിലേക്കു ഗവർമെൻറ് എത്രത്തോളം പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഉള്ളതു ചുരുക്കി വിവരിക്കുന്ന കണക്കുകൾ തെളിയിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഒരു കോടിയോളം രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നതായ ഫാമിൻ-ൽ നിന്നു, നാമമാത്ര രൂപ ചിലവാക്കിയിരുന്നു. അതു ഫാമിൻ-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ സാനിട്ടറിവകുപ്പിലെ ചിലവു നിന്നു, നാമമാത്ര രൂപയായി വർദ്ധിക്കയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതായതു് ഫാമിൻ മുതൽ ഫാമിൻ വരെ പതിനാറു വർഷങ്ങളിൽ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവിൽ ഒരു കോടിയിൽ പരം രൂപ വർദ്ധിച്ചു വന്നപ്പോൾ പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യത്തിനു സഹായിക്കുന്ന സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലേക്കു നാമമാത്ര രൂപയാണ് വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഉഗ്രനാടകങ്ങളിൽ സാംക്രമികരോഗങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നഅവസരങ്ങളിൽപോലും അവരെ പറ്റി അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നായി അവിടെ ആരേയും കാണുന്നില്ല. ആ അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു തുള്ളി മരുന്നു പോലും കൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെയാണ് അവർ മരിക്കുന്നതു്. എല്ലാപരിഷ്കൃതരാജ്യങ്ങളിലും ഒരു സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് ആ നാമകരണത്തോടുകൂടി ഇവിടേയും ഒരുഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുണ്ടാക്കിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു മാത്രമേ പറയാൻ തരമുള്ളൂ. (ചിരി.) അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു ഫാമിൻ-ൽ നിന്നും ഫാമിൻ-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ നാമമാത്ര രൂപയാണ് ചിലവിൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യത്തിനു ഏറ്റവും ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുന്ന മറ്റൊരു സ്ഥാപനം മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണ്. മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു ഫാമിൻ-ൽ നിന്നും ഫാമിൻ-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപാക്കുടുതലായി ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഫാമിൻ-ൽ നിന്നും ഫാമിൻ-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോഴുള്ള കണക്കുനോക്കുന്നതായാൽ നാമമാത്ര രൂപാ ചിലവിൽ കുറയ്ക്കയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഫാമിൻ-ൽനിന്നും ഫാമിൻ-ൽ മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ചിലവിൽ നാമമാത്ര രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ആശുപത്രികളിലും ഡിസ്പെൻസറികളിലുമുള്ള ചിലവിൽ "Supplies, services and contingencies" എന്നുള്ള ഇനത്തിലാണ് മരുന്നുകൾ വരുത്തുന്നസംഖ്യ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതിന്റെ കണക്കു എങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു നോക്കാം.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഫ ൦ ൯ ൪-ൽ നിന്നും ഫ ൦ ൯ ൯-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ സക്കാർ ആശുപത്രികളിൽ ചികത്സിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരുടെ സംഖ്യ ഫ,൩൦,൦൦൦ രോഗികളായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് മരുന്നുകളുടെ വില ഫ ൦ ൯ ൪-ൽ നിന്നും ഫ ൦ ൯ ൯-ൽ വളരെ വളരെ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് എല്ലാവരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ഒരും സ്ഥിതിയിൽ ഫ,൩൦,൦൦൦ രോഗികളെ കൂടുതലായി ചികിത്സിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന കാലങ്ങളിൽ മരുന്നുകളുടെ ചിലവു കുറഞ്ഞു വന്നതു എങ്ങിനെയാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല (ചിരി). ഇതെല്ലാം കാരണങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാൻ ഇടയായതു പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യത്തിനു ഗവർണ്മെന്റു വേണ്ടപോലെ ദൃഷ്ടിവയ്ക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നും അതിലേക്കുള്ള ചിലവു ന്യായമായ വിധം ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നും കാണിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിട്ടാണു്.

ജനക്ഷേമകരങ്ങളായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ പണം ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതായി പറയുന്ന മറെറാരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു കൃഷിവകുപ്പാണു്. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലേക്കു ഫ ൦ ൯ ൪ലെക്കാൾ ഫ ൦ ൯ ൯-ൽ ൩,൭൩,൪൦൦ രൂപയാണു് കൂടുതൽ ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ ഫ ൦ ൯ ൭-ൽ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലേക്കനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുകയിൽ നിന്നും ഫ ൦ ൯ ൮-ൽ ഫ൩,൩൪,൭൦൦ രൂപ കുറയ്ക്കുകയും ഫ ൦ ൯ ൮-ൽ നിന്നും ഫ ൦ ൯ ൯-ൽ ൯,൮൩,൨൦൦ രൂപാ വീണ്ടും കുറയ്ക്കുകയുമാണു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രധാനതൊഴിൽ കൃഷിയാണു്. കൃഷിയുടെ വർദ്ധനയെ പുരസ്കരിച്ചും ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിനുള്ള പരാശ്രയസ്ഥിതിയെ ഇല്ലാതാക്കുന്നതിനും വേണ്ടിട്ടാണു് ഇവിടെ ഒരു കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു ഏർപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതു്. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനു എത്രതന്നെ കൂടുതൽപണം അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുത്താലും, അതിൽ അധികൃതന്മാർ ഉപദേശരൂപമായി എത്രതന്നെ പ്രസംഗങ്ങൾ നടത്തിയാലും, നെൽകൃഷിക്കത്യാവശ്യമായ ജലസൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കികൊടുക്കാതേയും നെൽകൃഷിക്കുണ്ടാക്കിരീത്തീട്ടുള്ള പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളെ മാറിക്കൊടുക്കാതേയും ഇരിക്കുന്നതായാൽ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രമം ഫലവത്തായി തരുന്നതല്ല. ഫ ൦ ൯൩-ൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ സ്കീമുകൾക്കു ഫ വ,൫൯൦ രൂപായും മുസാവരി ബംഗ്ലാവുകളുടെ ചില്ലറ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ഫ വ,൫൩൦ രൂപയും ആണു് ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ സംകടകരമായ സ്ഥിതിക്കു അടുത്ത കാലങ്ങളിൽ പലേ മാറ്റങ്ങളും വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകളുടെ ചിലവു് ഫ ൦ ൯ ൭ മുതൽ ക്രമേണ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു ഫ ൦ ൯ ൯-മാണ്ടിലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഫ,൩൯,൫൩൦ രൂപായിൽ എത്ത

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

യിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഏറ്റവും സന്തോഷകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെയും അതിലെ വരവിന്റേയും സ്ഥിതികാംക്ഷ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾക്കു ഇപ്പോൾ അനുവദിച്ചുവരുന്ന തുപാ ഒരിക്കലും മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. അതിലേക്കനുരൂപമായും ഗണ്യമായുമുള്ള ഓരോ തുക ആണ്ടുതോറും ബഡ്ജറിൽ അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഇനി അടുത്തതായി വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിനെ പറ്റിയാണ് പറയാനുള്ളതു്. ഈ വകുപ്പിലെ ചിലവു് ൧൯൦൪-ൽ നിന്നും ൧൯൨൫-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൨,൪൫൦ രൂപായായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൯൨൬-ൽ നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള വ്യവസായസർവ്വേയോടുകൂടിയാണ് ഇവിടെ ഒരു വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു. വ്യവസായസർവ്വേ കഴിഞ്ഞു് വ്യവസായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിന്റെ രൂപീകരണവും കഴിഞ്ഞു ആ സ്ഥാപനം ഡാക്ടർ ബാർക്കരുടെ കയ്യിൽ നാലുവർഷം ഇരിക്കയും അതിലേക്കു ൧൯,൨൪൩ രൂപാ ചിലവു് ചെയ്കയും ചെയ്തു. അതിന്റെ ഫലം എന്തായിരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു ൧൯൨൭-ാമത്തെ പ്രജാസഭയുടെ ഉപക്രമപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"It cannot however be ignored that a policy of drift has been the standing feature of this department hitherto. Although certain very useful things have been done such as the deputation of four scholars to Europe for equipment in different branches of industrial knowledge and the entertainment of certain officers who had training in special industries like oil distillation, Shellac manufacture, etc., the services of the latter have not been utilised to the best advantage of the State and not one of these officers can claim to have laid the foundations of a new industry or to have popularised improvements in an existing industry. The foregoing criticism applies to cottage industries in particular, but even in the case of industries on a factory scale, the Director of Industries has not yet been in a position to place before the Government information on the strength of which a definite decision can be taken in respect of any of them."

വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലെ ഭരണം മേൽ വിവരിച്ച നിലയിൽ എത്തിച്ചതിൽ പിന്നീടാണ് ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിനെ ഇന്നത്തെ ഡയറക്ടർ മി: ഐ. സീ. ചാക്കോയെ ഭരം ഏല്പിക്കാനിടയായതു്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷതയിൽ വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലേക്കു ൧൯൨൬ മുതൽ ൧൯൨൭ അവസാനംവരെ ൪,൫൨൫ രൂപാ ചിലവായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ ൧൯൨൭ അവസാനംവരെ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലേക്കു വ്യവസായ സർവ്വേ ഉൾപ്പെടെ ൨൦,൩൫൫ രൂപാ ചിലവായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വകുപ്പിലേക്കു പ്രതിവർഷം ചിലവു് വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതു ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല. രാജ്യത്തിലെ പൊതു-മുതലിൽ നിന്നും

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ആണ്ടുതോറും വലുതായൊരു സംഖ്യ ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്ന വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും അനുരൂപമായ ഫലം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടാതെ വരുന്നപക്ഷം അയതു രാജ്യത്തിനും, ജനങ്ങൾക്കും വലുതായ ഇശ്ചാഭംഗത്തിനു ഇടയായി തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൻെറ ഫലമായി തൊഴിലില്ലാത്തവരുടെ സംഖ്യ രാജ്യത്തിൽ അപരിമിതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ഈ ദുരിതാവസ്ഥയെ ഒരുവിധം പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാദായ സ്ഥിതിയെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും ഈ രാജ്യനിവാസികളായ ൪൦ ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളും വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിനെ തന്നെയാണ് വീക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

PRESIDENT. Time.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I am not proceeding further.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Mr. President, to begin with, it will not be out of place, I hope, to state that any drastic criticisms which I may have to make on the financial policy of the Government arise merely out of a desire to see that the officers of Government and the people of the State act in harmony with each other, in a spirit of mutual trust and regard.

I am afraid that, for a long time past, the official view and the popular view about public affairs have been widely divergent. I shall endeavour to indicate the divergence, to point out its chief cause and to suggest remedies so far as the financial aspect of the matter is concerned. I request my elders in age and experience on the official side of the House to excuse me for finding fault with the acts or policies of the Government for which they have to some extent at least been responsible.

I shall first briefly describe the divergence of view between the officials and the people. Let us look at the financial and economic position of the State including, of course, the people, and not merely the officials and the Government. Administration Reports and financial statements by successive Governments represent the country as progressing rapidly in material prosperity. But if we look into the actual life of the people, what do we find? The sufferings and poverty of the vast majority of the people are daily growing greater, though a small minority may appear to be rolling in wealth and luxury for the time being. Even by looking closely into the official reports about our financial position, we can see that the increase in the revenues of the Government does not indicate the prosperity of the people either materially or morally. During the last 25 years or thereabouts, the revenues of the Government have increased about fourfold. What does this mean, but that the burdens of the people have been increased to that extent? The present revenue is about Rs. 2 crores. This works out at about Rs. 5 per head of tax per annum. Even according to official estimates, the average income per head of the population is only about Rs. 15 per

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Raman Menon.]

annum. A tax of one-third of such meagre income is really heart-rending. Of course, the Government may say that a considerable portion of its revenue is derived from the sales of timber and land, from import and export duties, etc. But, all the same, no one can deny the fact that the whole of the revenue comes directly or indirectly from the people of the State or from what morally belongs to them or ought to be used for their welfare. The Government have not, in spite of the large increase in the revenues, accomplished any considerable piece of work for actually increasing the economic wealth of the people, except the Kodayar Project. This was begun long ago and was financed by funds saved before the era of plethoric revenues and expenditures. A large portion of the revenues of the State during the plethoric era was derived from the sale of public lands, such as forests, portions of lakes, etc. A prudent Government would have utilised these funds for protective irrigation and drainage works and for starting lucrative factories to safeguard and develop the agriculture and industries of the people. Ours has not done so to any appreciable extent. What has the Government done to increase the wealth of the people or their conveniences for working without being unfairly exploited or fleeced by others? Very little.

The conveniences for gaining a livelihood by honest work are at present much less than before. A large portion of what little the people can get by work is taken by the State in the shape of taxes and another large portion by the rapacious underlings of Government. The too large and indiscriminate sale of public lands in the hills have deprived the people of their natural conveniences for gradual expansion of cultivation and occupation. The excessive cutting down of forests before cultivated trees could be raised in their stead in the registered areas, and the Government's forest policy of coupe sales etc., have resulted in the denudation of forests to a deleterious extent. This is partly the cause of the destruction caused by the floods. Further, the too large and indiscriminate registries of the beds of backwaters for *punja* cultivation etc., are causing destruction to large areas of *punja* and other cultivation every year, owing to the breaches of bunds for want of sufficient space for water to escape to the sea or to spread out. Registry of lands and lake-beds for cultivation and transformation into gardens ought to be done in a scientific manner with due regard to the existing rights of the people. A considerable portion of the money raised by such sales should have been spent in protective works for cultivated areas.

The Financial Secretary regards the budget for 1101 as a satisfactory one. But in the light of the above considerations, it is not so from the people's point of view. According to him, there will be a surplus of Rs. 3,79,000. But looking into the estimates, I find that a sum of Rs. 4,00,000 is to be raised by the sale of Government lands. This is like the *karanavan* of a family who sells family property for current expenses. This is not sound family economy. Neither are the Government's doings in the present case sound political economy.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Further, we find that a sum of Rs. 83,000 is to be realised by process fees, fines, forfeitures etc., in the Land Revenue Department. This as well as market dues etc., is generally collected from poor and distressed people. These latter matters have been sufficiently dealt with by my friends on this side of the House and I do not mean to further dilate upon them.

To present the budget for any year as a surplus one is not a difficult matter. The Government can put off some payments for any one year, or get advances on timber etc., to be supplied hereafter. The real state of affairs will emerge in the course of a few years. We will find by the examination of the *Administration Reports* for a number of years that we have been selling lands for meeting current expenses and running into debt for introducing railways, etc. In a very few years, we will have no more lands to sell. According to the *Administration Report* for 1099 the assets of the Government amounted to Rs. 1,93,65,378 and the liabilities to Rs. 1,18,90,870. But a sum of Rs. 19 lakhs has to be deducted from the assets, as the value of our investments in the Government of India securities is now reduced by that amount. Hence our assets are only Rs. 1,74,65,378. Further, we have a debt of Rs. 1,35,64,188 on account of the Quilon-Shencottah Railway. It is true we have assets, namely, the railway and the rolling stock, the Kodayar works and indeed the whole State. Nevertheless, we should be careful to economise so as to clear our debts, especially to outsiders, without selling our birthright in the shape of lands, natural resources etc., for a mess of pottage in different shapes. We are to incur in addition to the above liabilities a colossal something more in the shape of debt for the Cochin Harbour Project as detailed by the Financial Secretary. Already, we find that the Government cannot meet current expenditure at its present rate except by selling lands and by other questionable means and that the Government are not doing anything even with the funds raised by sale of lands for adding to the facilities of the people generally, for gaining a livelihood by honest work.

Further, a large portion of the revenues of the State is derived from the use by the people of arrack, toddy, foreign liquors, tobacco and opium which are all deleterious to the physical and moral welfare of the users. A Government which truly cares for the welfare of the people should be ashamed to be dependent on revenues derived from demoralising the people. Under these circumstances, I submit that the present financial and economic position of the Government and the people is highly unsatisfactory. Drastic action is required for reducing expenditure and turning it into right channels. The present financial, economic and administrative policy of the Government simply depletes the soil and impoverishes and demoralises the people. This is the view from the popular side. The official view more or less fails to take account of the realities pointed out above. Otherwise, the Financial Secretary would not have described the budget as a satisfactory one. There is thus a very great divergence of views between the Government and the people.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Raman Menon.]

All of us are human and have our own failings. The part of wisdom in public affairs lies in so ordering their management that our ordinary failings shall not easily affect public affairs. The head and front of my charge against the official administrators of Travancore, of the present and of the near past, is that they have not made an adequate response to the demand from the people and their representatives for such ordering of the administration. It is true that some steps have been taken for associating the representatives of the people in the work of the administration; but I regret to have to say that they have been halting and step-motherly. What appears to be given by one hand is taken away by the other and this is the chief cause of the restless dissatisfaction on the part of the people.

I am at present to deal only with the financial aspect of the matter and I must hasten to the work for fear that the allotted time may run out.

It is a great relief to me to be able to give advice to the Government in the words of a great statesman whose authority we must all respect, namely, W. E. Gladstone. According to him, the Chancellor of the Exchequer should boldly uphold economy in detail. So far as Travancore is concerned, I may say, by the way, that the Government is the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

> "No Chancellor is worth his salt who is not ready to save what are meant by candle ends and cheese parings in the cause of the country. Resistance in detail to jobbery and minute waste and extravagance is the first of wholly sound financial rules."

Gladstone summed up the hindrances to prudent and economical finance as follows: "There is the tendency to neglect things until the evils have become too strong for an easy cure. The true wisdom is to direct the mind of the country to the consideration of finance before the mischief has attained to unmanageable dimensions. The people are the natural defenders of their own purses: and no Government can be trusted in the absence of constant and unsleeping vigilance of public opinion."

That is the view of Gladstone who is perhaps the greatest English authority of the 19th century on finance and public affairs. Mr. President, I venture to state that no one of my respected elders, even on the official side, can with any shadow of justification say that the Government of Travancore have been paying any heed to the dictum of Gladstone that "the people are the natural defenders of their own purses." The Government have deen embarking on all sorts of expenditure of the public funds before giving an opportunity for the people even to have their say in the matter. The distinction of votable and non-votable heads of expenditure, the withholding of important information from even the representatives of the people and the autocratic powers vested in the official head of the administration, the Kallar Scheme, the Cochin Harbour Scheme, the Government's operations in regard to Land Records Maintenance, better known as the affair of the Assistant Tahsildars and Survey Accountants, and a thousand

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other instances can be cited to show the utter disregard with which the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Travancore, namely, the Government, has treated the natural defenders of the public purse.

Gladstone says that the public purse suffers from knots and groups and classes who have a constant and unsleeping interest in feeding themselves on the produce of the public industry. The counterpoise pointed out by him is the vigilance of the public mind. It is easy to describe how the public purse of Travancore has been suffering from the unremitting onslaughts of knots and groups and classes of persons who have an unsleeping interest in feeding themselves on the produce of the public industry and how the Government have been encouraging these parasites and preventing the natural counterpoise, namely public opinion, from acting against such onslaughts.

Another danger to the public purse pointed out by Gladstone is the bureaucracy.

"Unfortunately," he said, "there is an unhappy circumstance affecting the condition of the public servants. When men in private life improve their position, whether in commerce or manufacture, whether they improve the produce of the soil or of mines, they improve the position of all other classes; but unhappily, when those who have an interest in the public service improve their own position, they do so—and I do not see how the difficulty is to be avoided—rather with reference to their own interests than the advantage of the public."

I request the Government to bear this fact in mind and trust more to the advice of the people's representatives than to that of the public servants. The unhappy circumstance in Travancore is that the Government is controlled by the bureaucracy and not by the people's representatives. To leave the finances of the State to the tender mercies of the bureacracy is, to quote a Malayalam adage, like entrusting the care of the fowls to the fox. (*Laughter.*)

Gladstone further says that nothing needs more careful scrutiny than the plea, especially in the mouth of a Government, that departments are in an inefficient state and that money must be spent on them to make them efficient.

"My experience," he said, "has been, that when Government wishes to raise money, it is invariably done by saying that the public service is inefficient, that the money is spent and the next thing declared is that the service has at last been made efficient. It would be well if this ended here. But somebody else comes in who declares the public service again inefficient and the money is again spent. The same process goes on time after time; the public is utterly bewildered, and at last arrives at the only certainty in the whole matter—a large augmentation of the public charges."

Sir, all the members of this Council will, I believe, acknowledge that this description fits the doings of the Travancore Government to a nicety. What I wish to emphasise is that efficiency in the public service cannot be secured by merely increasing the number of public servants, either on high salary or low pay, but only by allowing the representatives of the natural defenders of the public purse to control the administration and thus infusing some wholesome fear of consequences into the hearts of Government officers. The officers will then become efficient and correct in their public actions.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Raman Menon].

Finally, Gladstone considers popularity-hunters to be a danger to sound public finance. They recognise there is a great deal of trouble to be escaped and political influence to be gained in local towns "by making things pleasant all round." They ask questions in the House, air grievances, make motions, or divide in favour of motions, all tending to press forward expenditure. In this way the attention of the country is turned in the wrong direction and it is made difficult for the Government to retrench. That is the case in England. Here, the place of these popularity-hunters is taken by certain influential people among the officials and non-officials who have their own axes to grind and to whose influence the officers of Government succumb. Government officers often spend public money disproportionately for roads, public buildings and acquisition of land in towns and for opening roads through uninhabited regions for the benefit of influential estate-owners, etc. In this case also, the remedy lies in the control to be exercised by public opinion, so as to constrain Government officers to attend to public works which truly advance the welfare of the people in preference to those which merely make a fine show or serve only the private interests of a handful of persons.

It seems to me that, following the advice of Gladstone, the members of this Council, inculding officials and non-officials, should endeavour to accomplish the following things in regard to the financial policy of the State. *Firstly*, we should economise in detail as regards the public service. If we make small cuts in the expenditure in a large number of office establishments, a substantial amount can be secured for being used to relieve the burden of the people, such as market dues, tolls, license fees for canoes, etc. *Secondly*, we should try to reduce as much as possible all items of expenditure which partake of the nature of luxuries at the present time and which merely make a fine show such as motor cars at the public expense, stipends and scholarships for foreign training in more or less avoidable matters, etc. At present, even in medicine, engineering, etc., all necessary training can be had in India and it is a waste of public funds to give foreign scholarships. The people of this State have not gained any appreciable advantage from the so-called experts even in agricultural and industrial matters, who have been trained in Europe at the public expense. So, it is only bare prudence to cry 'halt' to the process of spending our money in Europe when there are urgent needs here. Further, foreign training is now sought by officials, etc., as a justification for claiming higher salary from Government. So the Government should not encourage such trips to Europe except when substantial and tangible good to the people otherwise unobtainable can be gained thereby. It will be only just not to increase the allotments for stipends and scholarships.

PRESIDENT: Time.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I shall finish. *Thirdly*, in fixing the pay of Government officers, we should remember that the average income of the people is very low, namely

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

about Rs. 15 per annum per head. The *fourth* point I have to emphasize is that we must endeavour to make our educational system more practical and suited to the conditions of the people. The *fifth* point is that, in the Development Departments, *viz.*, Agriculture and Industries, the Government should as far as possible avoid appointing people with industrial, agricultural or other special training as Government officers, but only help them to start and carry on their particular calling by means of which they should show the people that they can get a respectable means of livelihood and ask them to publish the results of their work and to show them to the people who wish to see them. *Sixthly*, for a satisfactory financial administration as well as for all other satisfactory administration of public affairs, the natural defenders of the public interests, namely, the people themselves, should have a controlling voice in the matter through their representatives. So, the Government should make proper arrangements for giving the representatives of the people an *effective* voice in public affairs. They should be given an opportunity at least to express their views and make their recommendations in all public affairs. Under modern conditions, all other forms of government or administration will prove to be unsatisfactory and harmful.

In conclusion, I hope that, by the grace of Providence and the deep sense of duty and justice and the earnest desire for the people's welfare, characterising Her Gracious Highness the Maha Rani Regent, it will ere long be possible for the representatives of the people and the officers of Government to co-operate heartily for the common good of the State.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I listened to Mr. George's speech with very great care. And I have also been able to read the printed copy very many times and to analyse its contents. I am sorry to say that it is rather disappointing as a financial statement. In the course of six pages, the Financial Secretary has made three separate references to the difficulties of forecasting income and expenditure on account of the floods at the end of 1099. I was going through the speeches of the various members on the budget for 1100 which Mr. George presented to the House this time last year. I find that more than one member had the clearness of vision and the presence of mind to observe that the damage caused by the floods had been exaggerated by the Financial Secretary. I am glad, Sir, that the actual results have belied the Financial Secretary's fears and I am doubly glad because the opinion of laymen has turned out to be more correct than the one which emanated from the financial expert with several years' experience.

The Financial Secretary has made a number of startling revelations He seems to be satisfied with the total collections and he is modest enough to disown any spirit of self-satisfaction. If it is personal satisfaction, I am prepared to agree with him; for the various measures of income and expenditure that have been in vogue are the results of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

policy pursued by the Government after due deliberation. The world is yet to be told what the Financial Secretary has done to increase the revenue or to regulate the expenditure. There remains the further fact that he has himself admitted that his forecasts have been falsified by the results. The self-satisfaction can never be on the part of the Government, because there is the authoritative statement of Mr. George that the growth in educational expenditure is "staggering." He has also clearly admitted that "a head-long, impetuous career," I am quoting his own words, Sir, "must be checked." He refers again to the necessity to take thought and determine the line of our educational policy.

Referring to the Land Records Maintenance work, Mr. George makes a belated and opportune confession that the scheme as now worked has certain serious defects and is looked upon with considerable disfavour by the general public. It is certainly an irony of fate that the Financial Secretary had been obliged to pronounce such an unenviable benediction (*laughter*) on the previous administrations, administrations which were run with the help of the sober, careful and efficient advice of the Financial Secretary under the final control of a Sovereign whose reign of forty years is universally admitted to be the brightest period in Travancore history. I realise, Sir, that a new Dewan who is familiar with financial questions has discovered some of the serious defects in the present system and naturally the present year's official statement chalks out a new line in spite of the conservative traditions of the Financial Department.

I fear, however, that the increase of Rs. ·71 lakh in the Excise Revenue from license fee and duty on liquor is not a matter for satisfaction; and the increased amount of rebate duty is due more to the sense of justice of the British Government than to the exertions of the Travancore Financial Department. The payment by the Railway Company has been calculated on the basis of two previous years. The method may not be wrong in itself. But I feel unhappy, if not ashamed, that Mr. George should have had to admit that he has not received any estimate from the Railway Company. This speaks volumes about the vigilance and the efficiency of the Travancore service and their capacity to maintain their dignified relationship with a private company which has entered into contractual relations with the Travancore Government.

Mr. George has utilised a novel method in calculating surpluses. He says that, if there were no special items of expenditure, there would have been a surplus of Rs. 10½ lakhs. This way of calculating surpluses is more of a poetic imagination or a self-consoling reflection than a financial statement. The statement that Rs. 1 lakh provided for His Highness' tour is likely to lapse could certainly have been omitted. If Mr. George is sure that the allotment would lapse, it need not have been provided.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

In the present state of economically and socially backward Travancore, a surplus finance is unsound in theory and indefensible in practice. In all countries, it is an accepted canon of finance that the scheme of taxation must be so fixed and adjusted as to meet, but not more than meet, the reqirements of the people under normal conditions. A large portion of our revenue is collected from the exhausted land-owners and the nature of our public expenditure is such that a larger portion of it has to be spent on matters either unconnected, or only remotely connected, with the material advancement of the country. We want more money to be spent on protective irrigation works and communications and we have been intensively reiterating the demand for a good many years; and the Government were pleased to accept two resolutions of this House on the subject of increased irrigation facilities. Yet the amount provided for original works of protective irrigation is Rs. 1·17 lakhs while in 1100 the revised estimate was Rs. 1·35 lakhs. This is really inexplicable. And we are kept in the dark as to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee which, if published, would have given us a chance to know what the non-official members did in that Committee.

We expect a continuity of policy in the transactions of Government. But it has been the custom of Government to brush aside non-official opinion on the strength of facts, figures and arguments furnished by the Heads of Departments. No amount of democracy, no amount of pious hopes held out by the departmental heads will be a substitute for food and clothing. And in a State like Travancore, it is the production of individual wealth which ought to attract the attention of Government than all the usual advertisements and self-serving statements of those who are in charge of the Government bureaus entrusted with the enccuragement of nation-building activities. The excellence of a policy is in its results. The people do not grudge giving sufficient pay, status and reasonable comforts to the Heads of Departments and other officers. But they have a right to know the quantity and quality of the work turned out by them. There are some people who are so lucky as to secure high positions by the sheer force of circumstances, by favourable recommendations and sometimes by the inscrutable dispensation of Providence. The higher the position, the greater should be the incentive to discharge public duties. But there are in Travancore officers who think that they belong to a superior class of beings who look down upon the world below and condescend to imagine that the performance of an official duty at the suit of an ordinary citizen is a favour which he may give or withhold at his sweet will and pleasure. Take, for example, the Medical Department. There are officers, both male and female, who have been benefited by the taxpayers' money which went out of Travancore in thousands to maintain them at foreign Universities. They come back and are appointed to responsible posts. But they forget all past obligations and insist on being paid large fees which are often out of proportion to their work and diligence. Some of them are privileged to bolster up their uncommon qualifications and extraordinary achievements in the pages of administration reports. The Government frequently take their word on trust.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

Supposing a Peishkar takes credit for frequent circuits; does it not lie in the mouth of a member of this House to ask the Government to furnish information which would enable us to examine the truth of these official averments? In the same way, an Assistant Excise Commissioner may take credit for having detected cases which had been actually detected by a humble Sub-Inspector; and a Medical Officer in charge of a Hospital will find it convenient to wait upon the wealthy and influential persons, with the object of making money or gain, personal influence with high-placed individuals, influence which is often very much more than money. The Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons are obliged to remain within the hospital during the prescribed hours, and, as they occupy lower positions in the official ladder, a sense of kindness might induce them to look after the suffering humanity, besmear themselves in blood and pus which flow from the operation table, always without rest. But the credit of performing all the major operations in the world goes to the officer in charge.

If the Government were to exercise the powers vested in them to shield the officers in season and out of season when inconvenient questions are asked, there would not be any use in representative institutions or newspaper articles. The position of Government in these matters ought to be that of a judge, not of a party. An efficient public service is the first condition of a successful administration. The voice of the representatives of the people is a better guide than the facts and arguments manufactured by the officers. Whatever may be the receipts of revenue and expenditure in the different departments, the success of the administration should be measured in terms of public welfare. And public welfare, Sir, is bound to be at a low ebb if the personal considerations of salary, position, caste and sex are allowed to hamper the Government in the discharge of their duties.

The one good point of the financial statement is that the present administration appears ready to recognise mistakes and correct them if possible. The Financial Secretary has given a promise that the members of the Council will be requested to select a few gentlemen from among themselves to help the Land Revenue Commissioner with regard to Land Records Maintenance. The official designation of the officer concerned is the Commissioner for Land Revenue and Income Tax. I am not sure if even the Financial Secretary is empowered to mutilate official titles. (*Laughter.*) Announcements of this nature have been usually made by the Dewan-President and not by a lesser officer. I trust, however, that Mr. George has behind his back the deliberate decision of Government regarding this matter. I should congratulate the Dewan on his determination to remove some of the evils in the administrative system. I hope that, when the budget discussions are over, the Government will be able to see that the opinions from this side of the House are more correct and productive of greater benefit than the ready-made opinions from the official benches.

PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at a quarter to three.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-45 P. M.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastiswaram*): Sir, I am glad to note that the budget estimate for 1101 is a moderate one. Comparing it with the revised estimate for 1100, I am able to see that very cautious and safe estimates have been made of the increases under the various heads of revenue and receipts. The revenue side of the budget shows no signs of any new additional taxation, and anticipates only an increase of Rs. 1,26,000 over the revised estimate for 1100, an increase in revenue that may come in as the result of natural developments. The expenditure side of the budget is also free from extravagant provisions for extraordinary expenditure. Provisions for the carrying out of fresh schemes is conspicuous by their absence, and this is a departure from the usual practice. Generally, at the commencement of a new administration, budget estimates come out with big allotments for carrying out numerous ready-made and elaborate schemes; but I find the present budget free from such big allotments. This gives me some consolation that the present Government, departing as it does from the usual practice, is not likely to come to hasty conclusions with regard to the carrying out of big schemes. Every administrator, immediately he takes up the reins of Government, starts a reorganisation of the various Government departments. Reorganisation of a department in Travancore means the increase of pay and number of the already highly paid officers of that department, and retrenchment always means the disbanding of a few low-paid clerks and peons. Such reorganisations always begin from the top and by the time sufficient provisions have been made for all the highly paid officers in all the departments, Government get frightened either by the shortness of funds, or by the large number of the low-paid subordinates in each department, and consequently leave them more or less in the same state as before. These are the causes of the constant complaint of the top-heaviness of each department and of the Government as a whole. A reorganisation of the various departments commencing from the lowest strata will alone make matters right. We must begin by granting at least a living wage to the lowest paid Government servants. The police constable, the excise peon, and the peons in the various other departments must first be provided with a living wage. It is physically impossible for a man to maintain himself and his family on Rs. 9 per mensem; and there is no meaning in our accusing a police constable or an excise peon of corruption, when we are not prepared to provide him with means to keep body and soul together. If Government refuse to do him justice, he has to make up the deficiency somehow or other, and naturally he swindles the public. There is another set of Government servants, a battalion of them, called vernacular school teachers. They are persons with high educational qualifications, and are the custodians of the future citizens of the State. They are entrusted with the duty of imparting to our youngsters all the good qualities, including education, necessary for an ideal man. They have to be leading decent lives at least to set an example to our youngsters, and yet the pay given them is too low for a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.]

decent living. A teacher in a grant-in-aid school, if my information is correct, gets Rs.7½ per mensem, and a departmental vernacular primary school teacher gets Rs. 14 per mensem. A schoolmaster, having qualified himself for a teacher's post by passing the Vernacular Higher Examination, has to rot for a whole life-time, with little or no chance of promotion, on Rs. 7½ or Rs. 14 per mensem! This is a case of real hardship and some relief, I think, must be given. I beg to suggest that the first thing that Government should do, before launching into any big scheme for the reorganisation of any department, is to revise and enhance the pay of the low-paid subordinates and menials in all the departments of the State, who are getting a pay of Rs. 20 and below per mensem. I know this is a big scheme that may cost Government a few lakhs of rupees; but anyhow that has got to be done, and if necessary, Government should be prepared to effect retrenchment for the purpose in the higher ranks of the service in the various departments of the State.

It was only recently that the Salaries Committee's and the Efficiency Audit Officer's reports were given effect to and the departments reorganised. But from that date, I have noticed every head of the department of the State often bringing forward proposals for enhancement of pay either to himself or to some of his highly paid subordinates or asking for additional hands with fat salaries attached. I am of opinion that the Government and this Council should as far as possible reject such proposals, until the condition of the low-paid Government servants has been bettered.

The budget estimate shows a steady increase of revenue on account of license fees and duty on toddy and country liquor. This is an undesirable source of income based upon the vice of the people, disliked both by the Government and the representatives of the people alike. The responsible public of Travancore are not at all satisfied with the present abkari policy pursued by Government and the sincerity of the Government in their desire to effect reduction in drunkenness in the State will not be evident unless Government show a substantial reduction in this revenue. The mere closing of a few shops here and there, or their shifting from one place to another does not absolve Government of their responsibility in the matter of reducing drunkenness in the State. I hope Government will take up the *Report of the Excise Committee* in hand without further delay and see that their G. O. on the Report does not fail to adopt proper means to bring down the quantity of consumption of liquor, both country and foreign, toddy, opium, and *ganja* year by year with a view to their ultimate prohibition in the near future.

The salt industry is another important source of revenue to the State, but a reference to the budget figures will show that the actual receipts on account of local salt are far smaller than the estimated figures for 1099 and 1100. I have no hesitation to state that the industry

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

does not get the encouragement it deserves at the hands of the Government. There are at present two sets of factories old and new. There are three old factories, one at Tamarakulam, another at Colachel and another at Rajakkamangalam. We have been able to trace back the existence of these old factories to 926 M. E., the date when the owners were granted a *neettu* by the then Sovereign granting them 40 per cent. of the salt produced by them in these factories and the Government appropriating the remaining 60 per cent. as *rajabhogam*. The price of salt was subsequently fixed at 7½ chs. per maund, Government taking the whole salt manufactured and paying the factory-owners who produced them at the rate of 3 chs. per maund, the amount being 40 per cent. of 7½ chs. fixed as the price of one maund of salt. Since this period, much water has flowed under the bridge, salt industry passed through the hands of various departments, a salt duty was introduced, cost and conditions of labour underwent revolutionary changes and yet *kudivaram* continued the same right up to the time of Mr. Krishnan Nair, who, taking notice of the pitiable condition of these pioneers in salt manufacture in the State, raised the *kudivaram* rate to 2½ annas or to be more accurate to 4½ chs. per maund of salt produced. The slight relief thus given was even then regarded by the licensees concerned as too inadequate a remuneration. The salt pans in these factories have been changing hands like any other immovable property, and the present owners are persons or their descendants who bought them for prices ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75 per pan of one cent of land. I myself have bought some such pans and could produce documents to prove the statement and also to show that the present owners have invested capital for getting possession of pans. It must also be noted that they have proprietary rights over the pans worked by them. The new *alloms* are about 8 in number, and excepting one small factory at Variyur, all the others are at Tamarakulam. These factories were started, one by one, after the year 1080, on Government lands by licensees entering into agreements with Government on various terms. They have no proprietary rights over the pans possessed by them, and hold only the rights of contractors who have entered into long-term agreements for the manufacture of salt on Government lands. The terms of agreements vary with each factory. One factory gets 3½ annas per maund from Government, and it has to measure over to Government all the salt produced. In the other new factories, certain stipulated quantities have to be given to Government on different rates of *kudivaram* ranging from 2½ to 3 annas per maund and the remaining salt manufactured in excess by the licensees is to be sold to the public by the licensees themselves at the prevailing selling price only, after payment of the duty. In this case, the margin of 10 annas per maund goes to the pockets of the new licensees and above 50 per cent. of the salt manufactured by them is sold in this fashion. Thus, on an average, the new licensees of about seven factories get 7 to 8 annas per maund of salt manufactured by them. There is no comparison between the *kudivaram* of 2½ annas received by the old licensees and the 7 annas pocketed by the new licensees. Again sometimes, salt 2 and 3

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.]

years old are allowed to accumulate in the old *alloms* without Government taking possession of them and the licensees have to wait for the *kudivaram* for the whole period. The old licensees do not get even one-half per cent. on the capital invested by them. I have heard the Excise Commissioner say that the new licensees have expended enormous capital in the construction of the new factories, but my information is that the capital invested by them is something between Rs. 20 and Rs. 50 per pan of one cent of land and is much below the price paid by the licensees of the old *alloms* for the pans in their possession. I have also heard a responsible authority say that the new licensees have not yet realised the capital invested by them. But I have never heard of any investment or enterprise in which the capital is sought to be realised before declaring the investment profitable. The old licensees have no quarrel with the new licensees, for they get only what they are entitled to. But the old licensees are struggling for existence in the midst of these new licensees. They are not able to pay the same wages to labour as the new licensees do, and further continuance of the existing state of affairs will only ruin the old factories. The sooner the Government take up the matter for consideration and raise the old licensees to the same level as the new licensees, the better, and that is the first step that should be taken towards the encouragement of salt-industry in the State.

Another question that has to be taken up for consideration immediately is the supply of good brine for the various factories at Tamarakulam. They now get their supply from what is now left of the Manakudi lake after the appropriation of the greater portion of the lake for the accommodation of the new factories. The water in this portion of the lake is getting purer and purer every year since the completion of the Kodayar Scheme and the narrowing down of the lake itself by the formation, one by one, of the new factories in the bed of the lake, so much so that salt is now being manufactured from apparently fresh water. Unless something is done to supply better brine, the output of salt is sure to go down year by year, and the development of the salt industry itself may end in a dream. All these factories are situated close to the sea. If a suitable reservoir could be constructed in a portion of the lake and sufficient sea-water pumped into it for the supply of good brine for the various *alloms*, that appears to me the only method of improving brine supply. This may cost Government some initial outlay, something between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 80,000; but I think they will be repaid several times their outlay in a short period, by an increased output of manufactured salt. Finally, I would suggest the formation of a committee of enquiry to go into the question of the equalisation of the conditions of all the salt licensees, the supply of good brine to the existing *alloms* and also into the question of salt industry in general with a view to its development in the State so as to enable it to produce all the salt required for its own consumption.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Now, Sir, I have to deal at some length with the educational policy of the State, both about the financial side of the question and also about the method of education now imparted by the Education Department. The expenditure on account of education is going up year by year by leaps and bounds beyond all proportion to the yearly increase in the State revenue. The Financial Secretary has, in his statement made at the presentation of the budget, clearly pointed out that, within the last 15 years, the expenditure on account of Education has risen by 500 and odd per cent. The budget allotment for 1100 is Rs. 38,90,100 or 19 per cent. of the total expected revenue. We cannot now say for certain that this allotment for the department will not be exceeded, nor that the budget estimate of revenue and receipts for the year will not go down. Then, there are other departments like the Agricultural, Industrial, Ayurvedic and Survey Departments and also the quasi-educational institutions like the Trivandrum Public Library and the Department for the Preservation of Oriental Literature, that meet a good deal of expenditure on account of education of particular kinds. Then again, the Public Works Department spends a good amount every year on account of the construction and maintenance of school and hostel buildings. Thus, we can safely assume that the expenditure in 1101 on account of education in the State will reach a figure somewhere between 21 and 22 per cent. of the total revenue of the State. From the point of view of the general taxpayer, who has ultimately to bear the whole burden, I have to state at once that the expenditure now incurred by the State on account of education is too heavy for the State. It is high time that we should find out means to effect retrenchments by curtailing expenditure, raising the receipts of the various educational institutions, whenever possible, and also by changing the present method of imparting education.

Nobody can gainsay the fact that it is the duty of the State to give free primary education to all the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. Nobody will have any objection to spending even more, if necessary, on account of primary education if any scheme, including the one for imparting compulsory primary education, could be devised to give primary education to a larger number of children than at present. A good deal can be done in this connection by the Government transferring a greater portion of their responsibility to private agencies and local bodies by giving substantial grants. I also think that the Municipalities and also the Village Panchayat unions that are likely to be created in the near future may be entrusted with the work of imparting primary education within their respective jurisdictions. Government institutions are, and will continue to be, more costly than private institutions. Under these circumstances, encouragement of private schools will certainly be a financial saving to Government.

Finally, I have something to say with regard to Tamil Education in the State. The Tamilians in the State, I mean those whose mother-tongue is Tamil, form a substantial portion of His Highness' subjects, and their strength is not less than 1/6 of the total population of the State. They naturally wish to get education for their

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.]

children in the Tamil language and for the development of their mother-tongue, and I hope my colleagues here will only appreciate the strength of their natural desire. There are at present four purely Tamil taluks, *viz.*, Tovala, Agastisvaram, Shencottah and Devicolam. Then, there are other taluks where the majority of the population are Tamilians. Old Eraniel, Kalkulam and Vilavankod are such taluks. Then there is a very large Tamil population in the major municipal towns in the State. At present, almost all the schools in the purely Tamil taluks are Tamil schools. Then there is a very large number of Tamil schools in the taluks of Kalkulam, Vilavankod and (old) Eraniel. All these Tamil schools are now under the control of the Inspector of Vernacular Schools. It is not always that we can get for the post a man who is equally proficient in Tamil and Malayalam, and I am also aware that the appointment for the post of a man qualified in Tamil alone will be like putting a square man in a round hole. This is the officer who has at present to do the inspection work of the Tamil Middle and High Schools in the State over and above the general control he has over all the Tamil schools in the State including the primary schools. There were at times persons in the post who were supposed to know Tamil. But the present Inspector of Vernacular Schools will not, I know, even pretend to know Tamil. It is very doubtful whether communications now received in Tamil in the Office of the Inspector of Vernacular Schools are receiving any attention, and if that is the state of affairs, the Inspector and his staff are not to be blamed. Again, Tamil schools are now controlled, directed and inspected by Assistant Inspectors who are not only not qualified in Tamil, but are persons who are not likely to pay much attention to the development of the Tamil language. The present administration, control and direction are imperfect. Under these circumstances, it is highly necessary that there should be a separate officer to inspect and control the different Tamil institutions in the State. It is not my idea that Government should meet any additional expenditure on this account. All the Tamil schools in the State should be brought under a single Inspector of Tamil Schools and two Assistant Inspectors of Tamil Schools. There is already a precedent in the appointment of an Inspector of Mahomedan Schools and my suggestion is only to follow that precedent. It is enough if the Inspector of Tamil Schools to be appointed is a man of the highest grade of Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools and is placed under the control of the Chief Inspector. Co-ordination of the Tamil institutions in the State requires such a change. He may be assisted by the two Tamil Assistant Inspectors with headquarters in two different localities. All the primary schools in the taluk of Kalkulam, Vilavankod and (old) Eraniel where such schools exist side by side of Malayalam schools, may be brought under the control of a Tamil Assistant Inspector. Such an arrangement will necessitate a revision of the jurisdiction of the present Assistant Inspectors in these taluks and in doing so a reduction of at least one Assistant Inspector could be effected, and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

he could conveniently be appointed as the Inspector of Tamil Schools. We shall also be satisfied if the Tamil Assistant Inspectors are paid Rs. 50 per mensem and drawn from the grade of Headmasters of Vernacular Schools. All these proposals are only to promote the interests of the Tamil institutions, and in making them, I am anxious to see that the Government do not have to incur any additional expenditure. Moreover, the present arrangement under which Assistant Inspectors, qualified only in Malayalam, are made to inspect Tamil Primary Schools, the qualified Inspector is made to inspect and control Tamil Middle and High Schools and also teachers unqualified in Tamil are made to teach in Tamil schools, should be modified.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, I do not share in the optimism of Mr. George; not out of fashion, but out of conviction. I confess my inability to understand that the improvement which the budget discloses is neither casual nor transitory but is an earnest of continued financial stability. The clouds might have lifted and sunshine might have come, but there is nothing to show that the sunshine would continue. Continued financial stability is difficult to be achieved unless the State follows a definite policy based on sound economics. Now there is no policy. Of course, there have been attempts. Two points of importance which I wish to suggest in this connection are : (i) reproductive works involving heavy expenditure have to be invariably met by borrowed capital and borrowed capital only ; and (ii) the Government should seek large financial relief by calling on local bodies to have a fair share of expenditure in local activities.

These two principles seem to be all the more important here in Travancore where there is no scope for additional taxation. Moreover, the only sources of substantial fresh additions to our present revenue are customs, income-tax and tobacco and the rate of expenditure is alarmingly faster than the rate of income.

On the subject of Cochin Harbour, I must make certain statements of facts. Even in case the experiment proves a success and the financial disability placed upon us by the Interportal Trade Convention—a thing which we may well exchange for anything—is removed, our ports must on no account be neglected. On the other hand, increasing the exporting facilities at all our ports and the importing facilities at our southern ports would give us substantial income besides stimulating indigenous trade. I may here add that the Trivandrum Port is capable of great expansion and the work in connection with the extension of the pier is not as rapid as one would wish.

Coming to the scheme for a State-aided Bank, in these days when the people of Travancore are fast losing their belief in Joint Stock Companies, it is doubtful whether the minimum subscription could be collected in the near future, unless it becomes an unwritten law among the officers of Government to take a considerable number of shares and thereby create in the minds of the generality of the people a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai.]

sense of trust. There is no doubt that, when it becomes an accomplished fact, it would be a boon to the people of Travancore, especially merchants. It behoves everyone of us to see that the Bank comes into existence without any avoidable delay. In this connection I wish to draw pointed attention to the fact that it will be extremely suicidal to the economic prosperity and self-sufficiency of the State if the shares of the Bank are allowed to be subscribed by non-Travancoreans. There is, in my opinion, no greater mistake than to invest public money in a Bank financed by non-Travancorean capitalists.

As observed by the Deputy President, great credit is due to our former Dewan for his successful negotiations with the Government of Madras to secure us the full duty on the opium consumed in the State. The estimated income for 1101 against the head *opium* is found to be Rs. 1·2 lakhs. But the last Assembly address shows that Rs. 2·5 lakhs may be expected every year from this source. This obviously requires explanation.

In reviewing the year 1100, the Financial Secretary says that an increase of Rs. ·77 lakh is expected under interest, on the ground that the surplus cash remaining unemployed in the State Treasuries has been invested. The Financial Secretary deserves thanks for this step though taken at a late hour.

Passing on to Income-tax in 1100, more than Rs. 2 lakhs is collected as income-tax, over and above the estimated revenue. The budget estimate was only Rs. 5·5 lakhs but the revised estimate is Rs. 7·6 lakhs. It is admitted that the bulk of this increase is attributed by incomes derived from business. Setting apart the increased income of Rs. 1 lakh under tea, there is Rs. 1·1 lakhs which comes from business other than tea. To be more exact, the additional income derived this year from business other than tea is Rs. 5·25 lakhs (revised estimate for 1100) minus Rs. 3·58 lakhs (budgeted estimate) minus Rs. 1 lakh (additional income under tea business), which comes to Rs. ·67 lakh. It is also admitted that there has been "*disturbance to trade*" "*dislocation to trade and business*" (*vide* Financial Secretary's speech) in 1099 and 1100 on account of floods. It is significant that the budget estimate of 1101 under this head is Rs. 1·2 lakhs below the receipts of the current year, since the improvement of trade for that year is doubted. In the face of the above facts, the conclusion is irresistible that merchants and business men have been indiscriminately assessed in the year 1100. This shows that, after all, the cry of the merchants, that their books are not properly looked into and their grievances are not properly heard, contains a substratum of truth and deserves attention.

In regard to recruitment to public service, I feel bound to state that there is considerable dissatisfaction at the non-representation of the Vellala community in the higher ranks of the various departments.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

It is the duty of the Government and of the Heads of Departments to encourage qualified and deserving men among unrepresented communities in the State, including the neglected Tamilians.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Sir, may I at the very outset express my entire agreement with all that has been said by my valued friend, Mr. G. Raman Menon ? One cannot really discuss the budget without entering into the merits of the policy underlying the estimated revenue and the allotments made in the budget.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Louder, please.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I think, therefore, it was only proper that my friend Mr. G. Raman Menon emphasized again and again the idea of the people being the real defenders of the purse. This axiom has been observed more in its breach, by the Travancore Government, than otherwise. There are ever so many items in the budget which are designated as non-votable items about which we—I mean the representatives of the people—have no voice whatever. I am not here referring to them. Even in the case of the votable items, ever so many instances are available in which, without consulting the Council, over the head of the people and behind them, expenditure was incurred and then Government came to the Council for the necessary grant. I may remind the House of a very recent instance which I am sure all the members will easily recall. I refer to the supplementary grant asked for in connection with the Wembley Exibition. Dr. Kunjan Pillai came to the Council last time and said, "I want Rs. 50,000 more. Now you must bear in mind that it is an item which has already been spent, and for which I have already obtained the sanction of Government. So, it does not matter whether you allow it or not. For all practical purposes money has been spent; it has been sanctioned and the necessary adjustment in the accounts will be made." At this rate, Sir, one might be pardoned in thinking that all this is a big joke, a mockery! It is very unfair, I say, it is against all canons of political justice and political morality, to spend the money of the people without consulting them, especially when there is something like a Legislative Council. I do not want to stress that point any further.

Coming directly to the budget speech that was made by the Financial Secretary, I may congratulate him for his acrobatic feat in showing a balance in the budget. The budget preparation and the presentation of the budget have become more or less a fine art, which the unwary layman may not quite understand. I consider this budget, which has been presented with a certain amount of self-complacence and self-satisfaction by the Financial Secretary, as, fundamentally, a deficit budget. Here are some figures. Out of the total revenue that is anticipated, nearly one-fourth is from the Excise Department. We will examine the figures a little further. In 1099 we have a revenue of Rs. 42 lakhs from the Excise Department. In 1100 we have Rs. 44 lakhs and in 1101 a revenue of Rs. 46 lakhs is anticipated. As the excise revenue is increasing, so too, at the very same rate and in the same proportion is also increasing the expenditure in jails, in criminal justice, in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. K. Pillai.]

medicine and in litigation (as may be seen from the increase in registration fees, stamp fees and court fees). What does all this show? I am afraid that we are moving in a vicious circle. We get money from the excise. We give all opportunity for the people to get drunk. They become mad. They become litigants. They become criminals. They are locked up in the jail. We spend more for the jail. We want more policemen to keep the peace in the land. We pay nearly the Dewan's pay for the Police Commissioner. What does all this show? Does it show a progressive state of affairs? The legitimate satisfaction of any Government can be only through the real prosperity of the people. The increase in the jail expenditure, the increase in the expenditure on the Police Department, the increase in the expenditure in criminal justice, the increase in the number of people who need more and more medical aid, do all these things show that the State is progressive either in health or in morals? I do not think. I am not against some complacent satisfaction being derived by those who must have it. But from the popular point of view it is a dismal situation.

Mention has been repeatedly made by members of this House about retrenchment and there has also been an eloquent mention of it made by the Financial Secretary. I admit that there is retrenchment. But retrenchment has been begun at the wrong end, and I am afraid it had stopped there. We admit, every one of us here admits, that we have got, now, a top-heavy system. The pruning knife must be applied at the top. But what is actually being done is applying it at the bottom, at the most slender part of it, and in many cases at the vital needs of the people. I need hardly remind the House about the pitiable condition of the grant-in-aid schoolmasters. We have been told that, in the Education Department, Government are going to have a very severe merciless, relentless and ruthless retrenchment. But look at what they have done; they have asked for another Personal Assistant to the Director. They have asked for more office staff. They have asked for more expenditure in that direction. I do not know whether they are having in mind the condition of the elementary school teachers and the grant-in-aid school-masters. The clamour is always there, with the heads of the departments, for more Personal Assistants, for more Managers. There is a general disposition for easy-going life on the part of the officers. They want an easy time of it. They want more pay and less work. I am afraid the problem is very serious, I mean, the problem of unemployment among the big officials. (*Laughter.*) Here the unemployment does not lie in the fact that they want employment, but in the inadequacy of their work. So, we must very seriously think as to how to make them work harder. I am very glad to see, from the list of resolutions that has been handed over to me to-day, that there is a resolution asking for the appointment of a committee to consider ways and means for real retrenchment. I hope that it will fructify.

I have often thought that, when the officers are called public servants, it is all euphemism, a figure of speech. They do not feel that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

they are public servants. They do not behave like that. We need not go far to get instances. Even in answering the questions of the members of the Council, it is very painful to see that these officers throw the answers at us, almost carelessly. The questions are not properly answered. The answers are, as it were, thrown at us. Really, it is a painful sight to see the responsible officers, who should set an example to the lower strata of officialdom, behaving like this. In saying this, I must assure that I do not have any single officer in my mind. But that is a general complaint, and that complaint is not new. It is a very old one. I suggest that the disposition of the officers is not very satisfactory. The spirit of service is not there. They do not want to make their proclaimed or professed masters—*viz.*, the people, the real masters. I ask them what sort of self-respect they can themselves feel if they consider their masters to be some low sort of people. I think a revolution in the mental outlook of the officers has got to be effected. (Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : *Hear, hear.*)

The figures that I have mentioned must set us seriously think. There is no use in deriving income from any source whatever. We want income only from sources which can continue to be safe and sound sources of revenue even in the long run. If we are going to have revenue, at this rapidly increasing rate, from the Excise Department, I do not know where we are going to. Sir, I am afraid the whole nation is going to get mad. The desire for more toddy, more arrack and more opium is growing day by day and we are satisfied with revenue that is derived from that source. That is why I said, 'we are moving in a vicious circle'. We draw here and spend elsewhere. We spend for the Police. We spend for the Central Jail and we have to spend ever increasingly for medical aid. We are only giving facilities for people to get mad.

As regards the Education Department, I have got one point to mention, *viz.*, about the extravagant expenditure incurred on Collegiate education. I do not think that we need entertain such an expensive scheme like the Mathematics Honours or the Philosophy Branch. This year, I understand, there are about 12 students or so, for Mathematics Honours, that about 10 of them are Brahmins and that most of them are outsiders. Why should there be a course like the Mathematics Honours for the benefit of a few. I do not mind the foreigners coming and studying in our Colleges. But what is the earthly use in spending such large sums of money for the sake of a few? There is the Presidency College at Madras. Those who want to study higher mathematics may go there. Even if we want to train some Travancoreans, we may very well send a couple of them to the Madras Presidency College and give them scholarships. It is very unwise to spend large sums of money for the benefit of a few. There is no justification whatever to do so. I would, even out of principle, protest emphatically against this expenditure. Government themselves do not believe in the value of this expenditure. For, we all know that, for a very long time, all the important posts were being

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. K. Pillai.]

filled by people who have had their training outside. There have been qualified men here. If all that is claimed on behalf of higher education is real, and if the Government really think that this higher education given here is efficient, there is no reason why Government did not appoint people, trained here, as responsible officers of the State. They are people born and bred in this country, people who have not wandered far afield. When we have got sufficiently qualified people, I wonder why we had been going in for outsiders, even for the posts of Tutors, or Assistant Professors, or Professors in our Colleges. The Education Department here is looked upon as something like the Civil Service training department. If that is so, why should we spend so much money on this behalf and then get down people from outside?

Naturally, I now come to the problem of unemployment, the result of this education that is useless. It does not give them the proper equipment for success in life. Secondary education is considered to be something like a preparatory course for Collegiate education, instead of being looked upon as an extension of the elementary or primary education. If the Government are alive to the educational policy followed in civilised countries, I should think that they must consider how to make secondary education an extension of elementary and primary education. Now, the educational course is divided into a number of compartments. There is nothing in common between primary education and secondary education. Secondary education which, as I said, is simply a preparatory course to Collegiate education has been found by experience to be very expensive and very useless.

I would have congratulated the Financial Secretary, in spite of the fundamental defects that I have pointed out in the budget, if, while presenting it, he had shown that Government was after some very important and progressive scheme. I do not find any such scheme except the Cochin Harbour scheme and the State-aided Bank. I need hardly say what the people in the up-country feel about the Cochin Harbour. I know the ruling of the President on the matter. I do not want to enter into a discussion on the merits of the question. I just want to remind the authorities to have in view the feelings of the people, whether they be for or against the scheme.

As regards the State-aided Bank, I am not very sanguine about its future, and I am glad that the Financial Secretary himself is not very sanguine about it. If, as has been pointed out by previous speakers, the State-aided Bank is going to be financed by big foreign capitalists, there is no use in Government investing Rs. 5 lakhs as they are going to do. We know that our people are not rich enough to invest large sums of money in a Bank. The result will be that practically outsiders will capture the Bank. Monied people and big capitalists from Madras and other parts outside the State will come and take shares in the Bank. There is nothing in the rules to prevent them from taking shares; and after once allowing them to take shares, it will not be fair at all to say "No, you cannot have any voice in the management of the Bank."

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I correct the member? In the rules, we *have* provided that Travancoreans should have preference.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Yes, Sir, I am aware of it. But I ask, when the Travancoreans are not forthcoming, where is the preference to be shown? In the very situation that is present here, it is not possible to get people largely to take shares. Reference has been made to the vast failure which has become the normal phenomenon in regard to Joint Stock Companies. All the Joint Stock Companies started here have failed. Why? Because proper financing was not possible. They were not able to get people to take shares. There may be rules. I know the Government are able to provide rules for everything. But, then, people are not going to benefit, not because of unwillingness, but because of sheer physical incapacity. That must be taken into consideration when people's money to the extent of Rs. 5 lakhs is to be invested on very easy terms of interest and without interest. The only justification for investing such a large sum should be that the people should get the benefit out of it. Constituted as it is, I do not think, for some time to come, they are going to get much benefit out of it.

I do not think I will take the time of the House any more. I will conclude by saying that the 'prohibition question' must be taken in hand by the Government themselves. I think it will be only in keeping with the paternal attitude that is adopted by the benign Government of Her Gracious Highness—it will be only proper in the fitness of things that they themselves come forward with a scheme to effect prohibition. I also stress the importance of primary education, and I hope Government will see that, even by borrowing money, it is made compulsory and free. It is free to-day, but all people cannot take advantage of it. It is something like, what I remember my friend Mr. Kunjitomman, whom I miss here, said on another occasion. He said that it is like placing sweetmeats on a high table and asking children and grown-up people to eat them. The children cannot, however, reach them. Just in the same way, we allow primary education free. But poor people, *viz.*, Pulayas, Parayas and other depressed classes cannot take advantage of it. What I say is that real facilities must be afforded for all people to enjoy the benefit of primary education. With this prayer, I conclude.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): മി: ജാജ്ജ് ഈ സഭയിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്ന ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ നിന്നു നമ്മുടെ ധനസ്ഥിതി അശേഷം അപകടത്തിലില്ലെന്നു കാണാം. എന്നിരുന്നാലും നമ്മുടെ ധനവിനിയോഗസംബന്ധമായ നയം അത്ര ആശാസ്യമാണെന്നു പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനു അത്യന്തം ആവശ്യകങ്ങളായ പലേ വിഷയങ്ങളിലും ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പണം ചിലവാക്കാൻ മടിക്കയും അനാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള പലേ സംഗതികളിലും ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പണം ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിനു അശേഷം മടി കാണിക്കാതെ ഇരിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. P. Tarakan.]

സംഗതി ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽനിന്നുംതന്നെ കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. ഉയന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു കൊടുത്തുവരുന്ന ശമ്പളം അധികമാണെന്നു ജനഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും ആവലാധി പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും പറഞ്ഞ മറുപടി ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ളയൊ റാവുബഹദൂർ രംഗസ്വാമിഅയ്യങ്കാരൊ ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യായിലായിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ രണ്ടായിരമൊ മൂവായിരമൊ ശമ്പളം ലഭിക്കുമായിരുന്നു എന്നാണ്. ഈ ചെറിയ രാജ്യത്തു ഇത്ര ചുരുങ്ങിയ ശമ്പളത്തിനു സേവിക്കാൻ സന്നദ്ധരായ ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ള അവർകളുടേ സ്വദേശസ്നേഹത്തേയും മി: രങ്കസ്വാമി അയ്യങ്കാരുടേ പരോപകാരതല്പരതയേയും അഭിനന്ദിക്കേണ്ടതുതന്നെയെങ്കിലും ഈ ചെറിയരാജ്യത്തു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള ശമ്പളങ്ങൾതന്നെ വളരെ അധികമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലേക്കു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്യുവരുന്ന ചിലവു വളരെ അധികമാണെന്നും അതു കുറക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനുതന്നെ ബോധ്യപ്പെട്ട എന്നു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രിട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നും വെളിപ്പെടുന്നതാണ് ജനഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും പുറപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളെ അവഗണിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ഇതുവരെ കാണിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മടിമാത്രമാണ് ഈ ചിലവിനു കാരണമെന്നുള്ളതു പ്രത്യക്ഷമാണ്.

സെക്കണ്ടറി സ്കൂളുകൾ കഴിവുള്ളിടത്തോളം പ്രൈവറ്റു മാനേജ്മെൻറിൽ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു പല നാളായി ഈ സഭയിലും പ്രജാസഭയിലും പല ആളുകളും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനോടു അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഡയറക്ടർ അവർകൾ വലിയ ഉത്സാഹം കാണിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു എന്നു പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. പല ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറൽ സ്കൂളുകൾ ഏറെറടുത്തു നടത്താൻ ആയിട്ടു പല അപേക്ഷകളും വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു. ചില ആളുകൾ അതിനു തടസ്സം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു ശരിതന്നെ. ആ തടസ്സത്തെ കാരണമായിപറഞ്ഞു് ഏതുവിധവും സ്കൂൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ മാനേജ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും മാറി പ്രൈവറ്റ് മാനേജ്മെൻറിൽ ആക്കുന്നതിനു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പലപ്പോഴും വൈമനസ്യം പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നതു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും അനാവശ്യമായ ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും ഗവർണ്മെൻറു വൈമനസ്യമാണ പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. പ്രിപ്പറേററി മുതൽ Third form വരേയുള്ള വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം മലയാളവും ഇംഗ്ലീഷും

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

യോജിപ്പിച്ച ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കുന്ന രീതിയിൽ നടത്താൻ ധാരാളം സൌകര്യമുള്ളതും ആ വിധത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ചിലവു വളരെ കുറയ്ക്കാവുന്നതുമാണെ. അതുപോലെതന്നെ പലേ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും പരീക്ഷിച്ച വിജയപ്രദമായിട്ടുള്ള ഡബിൾ ഷിഫ്റ്റ്സിസ്റ്റം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ വളരെ ധനലാഭം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ വളരെ കായ്മയായി ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതിനു പകരം ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനു എത്രയും അത്യാവശ്യമായ പ്രാഥമീക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസകാര്യത്തിൽ ആണ് ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ഇതുവരെ ഉത്സാഹം പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ച കാണുന്നതു്. ഫീസ് ഇളവുകൊണ്ടു ചിലവുകഴിക്കുന്ന ഗ്രാൻറു സ്കൂൾ അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാർ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ എത്ര ഉൽകൃഷ്ടതയോടുകൂടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുമെന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു അധികം ആലോചിക്കാതെ തന്നെ അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഡയറക്ടർ അവർകൾ ഈ സംഗതികൾ സമ്മതിക്കുമെന്നിരുന്നാലും ഒരിക്കലും ശമ്പളംകൂട്ടികൊടുക്കാൻ അനുവദിക്കുന്നില്ലാ.

കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ൪ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ൪ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും മിച്ചംവയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും അടുത്തകൊല്ലത്തിൽ ൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ മിച്ചംവയ്ക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതിനും ധൈര്യമുണ്ടായ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസിക്രട്ടറി ആ സംഖ്യ പ്രാഥമിക അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാക്കു ശമ്പള ക്രട്ടത്തിലിന്നു വിനിയോഗിക്കാതേയും മറ്റുള്ള ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനു പ്രയോജനകരമായ സംഗതിക്കായി അനുവദിക്കാതെയും ഇരിക്കുന്നതു കഷ്ടം എന്നല്ലാതെമറ്റു ഒന്നും പറയുവാൻ ഇല്ല.

ഇനി പറയുവാൻ ഉള്ളതു് കൊച്ചിതുറമുഖത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. അതു് ഇവിടെ പ്രതിവാദനീയമല്ല എന്നു് പ്രസിഡെൻറു അവർകൾ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിൻെറ ഭരണ സംബന്ധമായ സംഗതികളെക്കുറിച്ചു പറയണമെന്നു് വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ലാ. എന്നാൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും വളരെ പണം ചിലവിട്ടു് ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു സംഗതി തുടങ്ങാൻ ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഓരോ സംഗതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ ഉള്ള ആളുകളിൽ കുറെപേരെ എങ്കിലും ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ മുതലായ തുറകളെസംബന്ധിച്ചുണ്ടാകാൻ ഇടയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ പ്രവേശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഗവർണ്മെൻറു കഴിയുന്നതും ശ്രമം ചെയ്യുമോ എന്നു ജനസാമാന്യം അറിയാൻ ആഗ്രഹിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു് ഞാൻ അവിടത്തെ അറിയിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു. തീവണ്ടിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഒരു ആഗ്രഹം ജനസാമാന്യത്തിൻെറ ഇടയിൽ ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടു്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. P. Tarakan.]

സാധാരണ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അധികം ആവശ്യമുള്ളതായി റോഡുകൾ തോട്ടുകൾ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾ മുതലായവയിലേയ്ക്ക് ധനവ്യയം ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ മടി പണ്ടത്തെപ്പോലെ തന്നെ ഇപ്പോഴും കാണുന്നു. വിശേഷിച്ച് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ വടക്കേ അറ്റത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം എത്രയും വാസ്തവമാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ മിസ്റ്റർ നടേശയ്യർ ആ സ്ഥാനത്തു പ്രവേശിച്ചതിന്റെ ശേഷം വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കാര്യങ്ങൾ സാവധാനമായിട്ടെങ്കിലും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും അതനുസരിച്ച് അദ്ദേഹം ഉത്സാഹമായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു വരുന്നുഎന്നും ഞാൻ വളരെ സന്തോഷത്തോടുകൂടെ അറിയിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു. റോഡുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഇനിയും വളരെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ ഉണ്ട്. തോട്ടക്കാർ മുതലായി നമ്മുടെ സംസ്ഥാനക്കാർ അല്ലാത്തവരുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിന് ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് ചിലവിട്ടുന്നിടത്തോളമെങ്കിലും പണം ഒരു നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിന് വേണ്ടി ചിലവിടുവാൻ വേണ്ട ഉത്സാഹം പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കണമെന്ന് പ്രത്യേകമപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് എനിക്കു പറയാൻ ഒരു പ്രത്യേക സംഗതി ഉള്ളതു മിസ്റ്റർ നടേശയ്യരുടെ ഉത്സാഹം ആ റോഡുകളെ നന്നായിഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ മി: നടേശയ്യരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ അത്ര തന്നെ പതിയുന്നില്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. (ചിരി.) റോഡുകൾക്ക് വീതിക്കുട്ടി ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിപതിഞ്ഞു കാണുന്നില്ലാ അതു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഗുണകരമായ ഒരു അഭിപ്രായമാണെന്ന് എനിക്ക് തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ധാരാളമായി അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഗതാഗതത്തിനനുസരിച്ചു കൂടുതൽ പണം വ്യയം ചെയ്ത് അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുകയും റോഡുകൾ തോട്ടുകൾ മുതലായവ നന്നായി ഉണ്ടാക്കയും വേണം. കുടിവക റോഡുകൾ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും എടുത്തു അതിൽ മെയിൻറനൻസ് നടത്തുന്നതിനായിട്ടു ഒരു നല്ലതുക ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിക്കപ്പെടുക പതിവുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതു ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തിൽ വളരെ കുറവാണെന്നു കാണുന്നു. കുടികളുടെവക റോഡുകൾ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും എടുത്തു മെയിൻറയിൻ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഒരുനിയമം അടുത്തകാലത്തുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിലെ തത്വങ്ങളനുസരിച്ചു ഒരിഞ്ചുറോഡുപോലും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു എടുക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഇനി എടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കയുമില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെപൂർണ്ണമായ അഭിപ്രായം. ഒരുകൂട്ടം ഒന്നു ഉടച്ചു വാർത്തു ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനു അതിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കാൻ സൌകര്യമുള്ള വിധത്തിൽ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഉണ്ടാക്കി തീക്കാത്തപക്ഷം അതിന്റെ ഫലം ജനങ്ങൾക്കനുഭവിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഒരം കൌൺസിലിലെ ഒരു സബ്കമ്മിറ്റി നിയമിക്കേണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇനി പറയാനുള്ളതു് വരവിനങ്ങളെ കുറിച്ചാണു്. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ ചിലവു നടത്തുന്നതിനു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു പ്രധാന വരവിനം എക്സൈസ് ആണു്. മദ്യപാനനിരോധനമാണ് ഗവർണ്മെണ്ടു നയമെന്നു ഈ സഭയിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറുഭാഗത്തു നിന്നും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷേ ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഉത്സാഹത്തോടുകൂടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കയോ മദ്യപാന നിരോധനം ശരിയായ വിധത്തിൽ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താൻ ശ്രമിക്കയോ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. അക്കാനി ചെത്താനുള്ള പ്രീപാസ് യാതൊരു പ്രയാസവും കൂടാതെ ധാരാളമായി അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. അതു സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു ഒരു തടസ്ഥം പറയാനുള്ളതു പ്രീപാസ് അനുവദിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അതു ഷാപ്പുകാർ ഉപയോഗിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങനെ ഭയപ്പെടാൻ അവകാശമില്ലാത്ത അവസരങ്ങളിൽ പോലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും അങ്ങനെയുള്ള അനുവാദങ്ങൾ കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നില്ല എന്നാണു് എന്റെ അറിവു്. 1099-ലെ ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടു് ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ അക്കാനി പ്രീപാസ് തിരസ്കരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി പരാതിഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നുകാണുന്നു. ഇത്രയും വലിയ ശമ്പളവും ചുമതലയുമുള്ള എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ തന്റെ ഭരണ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഒരു അവാസ്തവപ്രസ്താവം ചേർത്തു എന്നു പറയുന്നതു് ഈ കൌൺസിലിലെ ഒരു മെമ്പർ എന്ന നിലയിൽ അത്ര യോജിച്ചതല്ല എന്നു എനിക്കു ഓർമ്മയില്ലാതില്ല എങ്കിലും വാസ്തവം പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു സംഗതി 1099-ൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതായിഎനിക്കുതന്നെ നേരിട്ടറിയാം. മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിനും അതറിയാം.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I deny it. The reports received by me show that no complaints have been received in 1099.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു സംഗതി ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതായി എക്സൈസ്കമ്മിഷണർക്കു തന്നെ അറിയാം. I say Mr. Van Ross cannot deny that.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid the member is out of order. Mr. Van Ross denies the allegation. If the member makes the allegation, he must be able to produce proofs to substantiate it.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I repeat that there was no complaint in 1099.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): ഹർജി ഫയൽ-ൽ അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): A petition was received by me only in 1100.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): ഞാൻ പറയുന്ന സംഗതി മി: വാൻറോസിനു നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാവുന്നതാണു്. ഒരുത്തൻ അക്കാനിക്കു പ്രീപാസ്സിനു അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കീഴ്സിൽബന്ധികളോടു അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടും കിട്ടാതെയായി. എന്നിട്ടു ഫാദർ വെട്ടിക്കാപ്പള്ളിയെകൊണ്ടു മി: വാൻറോസിനോടു ശുപാർശചെയ്തിട്ടും സാധിക്കാതെവന്നു.

ഈ സംഗതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഫാദർ വെട്ടിക്കാപ്പള്ളിയുടെ അപേക്ഷപ്രകാരം ഞാൻതന്നെ എക്സൈസ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് കമ്മീഷണരും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരുംകൂടി നിൽക്കുമ്പോഴാം മി: വാൻറോസിനോടു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ആ സമയത്തു അസിസ്റ്റൻറ കമ്മീഷണരും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരും പറഞ്ഞ മറുപടി ഷാപ്പുകാർ വിരോധിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണു്. സാധാരണ ഗവർമെൻറ് നിയമം ഷാപ്പുകാക്കു് അനുകൂലമുള്ളവക്കു് കൊടുത്തുകൂടാ എന്നാണു്. ഷാപ്പുകാക്കു വിരോധമുള്ള കക്ഷിക്കു കൊടുത്തുകൂടാ എന്നാണു് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ നയം.

എന്നാൽ ഇതു രണ്ടുംകൂടി യോജിക്കുന്നതെങ്ങിനെ എന്നു് എനിക്കു് മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരെ ഫാദർ വെട്ടിക്കാപ്പള്ളി പ്രീപാസിനു് നിർബന്ധിച്ചപ്പോൾ ആ മനുഷ്യൻ ഒരു എക്സൈസ്പ്യൂണിന്റെ ശമ്പളം മാസം കൊടുക്കാൻ തയാറുള്ളപക്ഷം പാസുകൊടുക്കാം എന്നാണു് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞതു്. ഈ മനുഷ്യൻ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ തന്നെ ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു് പറയാത്തതു് ഭാഗ്യമെന്നേ എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളൂ. (ചിരി)

പുളിയൽ കള്ളിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ നടപ്പിലിരിക്കുന്ന നയം അശേഷം തൃപ്തികരമാണെന്നു് പറയാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാ. അടുത്ത കാലത്തു് പിറവം സർക്കിളിൽ കളവായി പുളിയൽ കള്ളുചെത്തു ധാരാളമായി നടക്കുന്നു എന്നു കമ്മീഷണരോടു് പരാതിപ്പെട്ടു. കമ്മീഷണർ അവർകൾ ഉത്സാഹത്തോടുകൂടി ഉടനെതന്നെ വൈക്കത്തെത്തി. എന്നിട്ടു ഒരു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരേയും ര-ള സബ ഇൻസ്പെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ക്ലർമാരേയും ക്രൂടി കേസ് കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുവാൻ അയക്കയായിരുന്നു ചെയ്യുന്നത്. ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ മേലുള്ള പരാതിയെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിക്കുവാൻ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരേയും സബ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെയും നിയമിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്ക് മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറോസിന് ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതു് എന്തിനാണെന്നു് എനിക്ക് മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

PRESIDENT. I do not see how this is relevant to the general discussion of the Financial Statement.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN. (*Kunnatnad*): എക്സൈസ് ഇനത്തിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു് ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ആദായം ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലാ എന്നുള്ളതിനെ സ്ഥാപിക്കാനാണു് എന്റെ ശ്രമം. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് ഈ സംഗതിയെ മനസ്സിൽവച്ചുകൊണ്ടു പ്രവത്തിക്കുന്നില്ലാ എന്നാണ് എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു.

PRESIDENT. I fail to see the connection. You might perhaps refer to this matter more appropriately when the demands are voted.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): എന്നാൽ അപ്പോൾ പറയാം. ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി പണം ചിലവിടുന്ന മറെറാരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് ആയുർവേദ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണ്. നമ്മുടെ സംസ്ഥാനത്തു വൈദ്യ വിഷയമായി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും വ,വ ഫ്, ൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിൽ സാനിട്ടറി വകുപ്പിലേക്കു പോകുന്ന ൻ ർ, ൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ കഴിച്ചു ന ൬, ൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ മാത്രമാണ് ആയുർവേദ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ബാക്കിയുള്ളതു ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ചികിത്സയുടെ ചിലവിനായിട്ടു ഇപ്പോൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. അതു ലജ്ജാവഹമാണെന്നല്ലാതെ മറെറാന്നും പറയുവാനില്ല. ആയുർവ്വേദത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കൂടുതലായി ശ്രദ്ധ പതിക്കയും നിവൃത്തി ഉള്ളിടത്തോളം ആയുർവേദം തന്നെ നാട്ടിൽ എല്ലാ ആളുകൾക്കും ഉപകരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അപേക്ഷ.

ഒരു വസ്തുതന്നെ കാലത്തും ഉച്ചയ്ക്കും വൈകുന്നേരവും അളന്നാൽ മൂന്നു തരത്തിൽ അളവു കാണിക്കയും സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ വിസ്തീർണ്ണത കൂടുവേണ്ടി യുദ്ധം മുതലായ അനാവശ്യചിലവുകൾക്കുടാതെ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ വിസ്തീർണ്ണം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു സാമർത്ഥ്യം ഉള്ളവരെന്നു സുപ്രസിദ്ധന്മാരായ അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കയും അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളെ നിർത്തുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നു പല പ്രാവശ്യവും ഈ സഭയിൽ അപേക്ഷിക്ക ഉണ്ടായി. എങ്കിലും ഗ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. P. Tarakan.]

വർണ്മെൻറ ഇതുവരെ ഈ സംഗതിയെക്കുറിച്ചു ആലോചിക്കാതിരുന്നു, ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു ബോധ്യപ്പെട്ടതായും അതനുസരിച്ചു ഒരു പുതിയ സ്കീം ഇപ്പോൾ എങ്കിലും ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി മി: റാബിൻസൺ തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതായും അറിയുന്നതിൽ അതിയായിസന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു: ഈ കമ്മറ്റി താലൂക്കുകച്ചേരിയിലും പകൃതികച്ചേരിയിലും നടക്കുന്ന പ്രവർത്തിപദ്ധതിയെപ്പറ്റി ക്രൂടെ ആലോചിച്ചു റിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്യുന്നതിനും ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ കൂടെക്കൂടി കാര്യക്ഷമമായ ഭരണം നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതിനു ആവശ്യമുള്ള നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ സമർപ്പിക്കുവാനും ആവശ്യപ്പെടണമെന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനോടു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

പലേ വിഷയങ്ങളിലും വ്യയനിയന്ത്രണം ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറി അവർകൾക്കും ബോധ്യം ഉള്ളതായി അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻറ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും കാണാം. അതിനായിട്ടു ശരിയായ ഒരു ശ്രമം ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ഇതുവരെ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി വിചാരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇതിനുമുമ്പു ഒരിക്കൽ റിട്രെഞ്ച്മെൻറു കമ്മറ്റി എന്ന ഒരു കമ്മറ്റിയെ നിയമിച്ചു എങ്കിലും ഫലം ശൂന്യമായ്തീർന്നു. ഉയർന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു യഥാർത്ഥമായ വ്യയനിയന്ത്രണം ചെയ്യ ഉപദേശം നൽകാൻ ഈ കമ്മറ്റിക്കു അശേഷം സാധിച്ചില്ല. അതിനാൽ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളേയും സംബന്ധിച്ചു വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിക്കാനും ആവശ്യമുള്ള വ്യയനിയന്ത്രണങ്ങളെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു ഉപദേശിക്കുന്നതിനും ആയി ഒരു കമ്മറ്റിയെ രൂപീകരിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രത്യേകമായി അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇതിനു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും വരവു കൂടുവാൻ ഉള്ള ഒന്നു രണ്ടു സംഗതികൾകൂടി പറയാം. ഒന്നാമതായി കക്കാലേലത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്.

PRESIDENT: Time.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, Mr. George has appeared again with the precision of the seasons and presented the horoscope of the State for the next year. I see it is pitched in a cheerful strain and has nothing in common with the lugubrious tones in which the previous year's budget was delivered to this House. No doubt, when he prepared the budget estimate for the last year, his mind was the scene of deadly conflict between hopes and fears consequent on the unprecedented floods which we experienced towards the close of the last year. All the same,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

with the shimmer that was available in the gloom of the outlook, he prepared a budget estimate. And as he said that he was not on *terra firma* in presenting that budget to the House, it has now been found he has made certain miscalculations. Now, Sir, I would not complain of any miscalculations especially under such circumstances; for being human, Mr. George had the liberty to err as much as any other mortal. But there is a distinction to be drawn in the case of Mr. George. What we see from the explanatory note he read to the House is that even his mistakes prove a source of pleasure to him as well as to the House for he has a happy knack of erring if at all only on the safe side. That certainly is a matter for congratulation.

On going through the Government reviews of the administration reports of the various departments submitted by the different departmental heads, I see some divergence in the figures supplied by the departmental heads and those supplied by Mr. George's department. I may refer in this connection for example to one or two departmental reviews. In the review of the administration report submitted from the Marine Department by Captain Leverett, Government observe as follows:

> "According to the Principal Port Officer, the expenditure of the department for the year was Rs. 21.851-20-11; whereas according to the Account Officer, it is Rs. 21,794 only."

Then there is the Government order immediately following this:—

> "The Principal Port Officer is requested to adopt the latter figure."

It passes understanding how, without an investigation, the Government ordered that the Account Officer's figure must be adopted by the Principal Port Officer. Then again, in the review of Mr. Dhanukoti's department, the differences are more striking. Government observed the following discrepancies occurring between the Account Officer's and the Departmental figures: item 1, grazing; Account Office figure Rs. 19,896; departmental figure Rs. 20,845-15-13. Item. 2, minor forest produce; Account Office figure, Rs. 32,513: departmental figure Rs. 74,391-9-12. The third item-

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): These figures are not mine.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): They are called departmental figures. They are not exclusively Mr. Dhanukoti's.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): From the figures in Table XV appended to the report, it will be found that these figures are not mine.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am relying upon the Government review.

Third item, ivory: Account Officer's figure Rs. 8,759; departmental figure Rs. 9,365-16-14.

There are other discrepancies also which may be collected together and placed before the House, but these are quite sufficient for my purpose. Now this irreconcilability of figures is certainly not due to any

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

inherent militancy on the part of the figures themselves and I think they are due to what in common parlance is called "mistake" somewhere.

PRESIDENT: I do not think so. They are reconcilable because some expenditure might have been incurred after the first set of figures have been submitted. They might also be the result of adjustments.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes; it might be reconcilable. But as they stand, they appear to be mistakes.

Mr. George differing from the departmental figures has compiled the budget now before the House. I ask whether we are on firm ground when we rely upon such figures. I raise a more serious question. I refer to the proceedings of a certain Mr. Sankaranarayana Aiyar who was the Treasury Officer at Quilon, culminating ultimately in his being compelled to partake of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent's enforced hospitality in a certain tiled house at Pujapurai. (*Laughter.*) It would appear from the pronouncement of the High Court upon the subject that this gentleman was a Treasury Officer at Quilon and was systematically carrying on depredations in the Quilon Treasury. Well, Mr. George in his *Appropriation Statement* does not refer to any misappropriation. I think he will have also to compile a misappropriation statement. So much so when he points to the opening balance and the closing balance, one is naturally tempted to question whether they include the real cash in the treasuries including the defalcated amount or whether he refers to a figure *minus* those abstracted from the Sirkar treasuries. That is a matter which I have not been able to solve. One thing I have been able to conclude from the proceedings on the part of Mr. Sankaranarayana Aiyar. The gentleman Sankaranarayana Aiyar was originally employed in the Account and Financial Section of the Huzur. He is a graduate also, I understand. After acquiring the necessary training, and acquainting himself with the arcana and the methods of business in the Financial Secretary's Office, he appears to have been sent to a Treasury at Quilon. Now after going to Quilon, he must have entertained a sense of security that emboldened him to swindle Government, a sense of safety that, undetected, he may carry on this work for some time. That raises a further presumption, Sir, that the Financial Section of the Huzur must necessarily be a lax and supine section. Otherwise, the man who has had his training in the Account Office would not dare do such a thing in a distant outpost. My submission is that, if early attention is not paid to the Financial and the Account Sections of the Huzur, in addition to the appropriation statements so readily placed before the House by Mr. George, there would be need for statements of misappropriation to be placed before the House. To my mind, it appears that the whole thing is a growing danger, the Financial Section and the Account Office. On a prior occasion, this House suggested a separation of these two sections in the interest of efficiency, promptitude, vigilance and such other considerations. My impression at present, especially after what has transpired at Quilon, is that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. George is trying to bite off more than what he can properly chew. So my suggestion at present is that he should not be allowed to continue straddling the Financial Section and the Account Section together. In the interests of the Account Section of the State, I think it is high time that a separation of the two sections is made. That is the first criticism that I have to offer in connection with the budget estimate.

Another aspect of the budget estimate that has been placed before the House is the inclination of Mr. George to let the cat out of the bag in which he was nurturing the incovenient animal. For example, the Cochin Harbour Scheme is a scheme which has been whizzing about our ears for the last so many years; yet Mr. George never hinted a word in the financial statements which he previously submitted to the House. This year, though not for the purpose of discussion, he gave us some idea of what has been done at Cochin and how the three Governments are concerned. Now when this matter is divulged, it comes to this: two stages in the particular scheme have passed away and we are now entering a third stage.

PRESIDENT: You are verging upon a discussion of the question.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No, I am not discussing. I am only stating the facts. It would have been of considerable assistance to the House to understand the financial relations in so momentous a question as this, had he submitted the facts earlier. But I will pass away because of the ruling of the President. I myself wanted to interrupt Mr. George and clear certain doubts the other day. You said that I might do so at the general discussion stage. However, in view of your ruling today, I pass on.

The next question relates to education. That is a very important question. This House, Sir, brought up the question for discussion on former occasions. Nay, I recollect on one occasion two enthusiastic members, one on the official side and the other on the non-official side were prepared to proceed from mere words to more tangible and impressive methods but accidentally they were separated and the matter ended. (*Laughter.*) It was so keen a question. On all those occasions Mr. George and the Government he represented were setting their face against the non-official view and the policy of the Government was not explained. Now Mr. George tells us with welcome candour that, after all, the Government feel that their spinal column is being squeezed under the weight of educational expenditure. Sir, Mr. Subba Aiyar, speaking on the non-official side, said that the Government would find it impossible to cut down the expenditure on education. Well, I am not quite certain of the correctness of the statement of Mr. Subba Aiyar. Granting for argument's sake that the expenditure is irreducible, I ask whether, after all, there is a fair return for the money, Rs. 40 lakhs, spent upon education. I am thinking that, if all this money is required for the sake of education, a better return for the money is certainly to be insisted on in that direction. Is our education as efficient as can be made with the Rs. 40 lakhs spent upon it is the question that has first to be considered. The

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

second question naturally arises whether, in the interests of economy, it is not possible to cut down the expenditure to a more modest sum.

As this is a question of a vital nature, I think it requires a very careful examination by a committee of officials and non-officials.

Another matter that Mr. George thought that he may conveniently state in this Council and about which he was as keen as anybody else is the question of the Assistant Tahsildar. If anybody was attempted to be got rid of from the Revenue Department or any other department, it was the pet aversion, *viz.*, the Assistant Tahsildar. For three consecutive years, this side of the House was after him. Anyhow, he has managed to survive in spite of all our efforts. Now, Mr. George says that the Government are fully satisfied that he is a very unpopular and unsatisfactory sort of functionary and that Government are prepared to place him on the inclined plane and to allow him to go to the ground. That is a refreshing statement. Now, this is what I mean by saying that Mr. George shows an inclination this time to let the cat out of the bag.

Leaving the frame of the budget there, I proceed to make a few observations which have a relation to the policy underlying the budget. The most outstanding questions that are being agitated before this Council—not only in this Council but also in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Press generally—on an analysis, may be seen to be the question of employment in Government service and the question of means of communication in the State. The interpellations sent in may generally be seen to centre round these two questions.

The question of employment in Government service is the outcome of a wider question—that is the question of unemployment. It is unfortunate that educated men are not able to earn proper and decent livelihood except through the channel of Government service. That is the question that presents itself before us. Looking at Government employment generally, it also gives room to certain comments in the direction of unfairness as I am prepared to point out even by a casual reference. For example, take the case of the Agricultural Chemist in the Agricultural Department. His pay is from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 as provided in the budget. He is a graduate of the Madras University, which necessarily reveals the ordeal that he has got through. He was deputed to Pusa for training, and subsequently he went to an English University, the expenditure being met partly from his pocket and partly by Government. Even after his return he gets only about Rs. 200. The Textile Expert, the Oil Expert and that sort of people without any such qualifications proceeded to England with the aid of State scholarship, qualified themselves in Western Universities and returned. They are given a maximum pay of Rs. 400. Here is clearly a visible inequality. Probably, it is quite unintentional and I do not accuse the Government of any intention of preferential treatment in this matter. But I may just state that this is an unevenness in the matter of recognition of the qualifications for posts in the Government service in the State. In the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

matter of public service, such things should not happen. There is considerable difficulty to get into Government service; but when once you are there, there is considerable difficulty to get you out of it. Whatever the amount of misbehaviour or irregularity that you may resort to, there is the kind Government which will only be patting you on the back and which will never throw you to the wolves. That is the real advantage of Government service. Had it been a question of turning out an amount of honest work, I fear very few people will feel attracted by Government service. Such ought to be the exacting nature of the service under Government. The functions to be expected from Government servants must necessarily be of an arduous nature. That is one aspect of the question. There is also the question of communal representation.

The question of communications from place to place is one that has not been sufficiently attended to in framing the budget. That is a question which this Council has been hearing ever since it was started and existed long before it was started. Turning a deaf year to all manner of requests, lamentations, complaints and all manner of entreaties, the Government, with the advice of the Chief Engineer, have been bestowing their attention on far off places and uninhabited regions. As a matter of fact in thickly populated places like Shertallai and Ambalapuzha, we have to manage with no roads. As far as my own taluk is concerned, it may not matter very much as we generally travel by water. But in respect of Shertallai, where roads are absolutely necessary, it is regrettable that the department is not up and doing.

PRESIDENT: Time.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Thank you for reminding me of time. Sir, I do not want to transgress the ruling from the Chair. I have a good deal more to say in this matter. But obeying the ruling from the Chair, I resume my seat.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, we are in a new reign and in a new administration. It is only just a few days ago that the anniversary of the death of His Highness the late Maha Raja, the father of this Council, had been performed. We shall never be able to shake off from our hearts the feeling of personal loss sustained by His Highness' demise. Our only comfort is that, in the new reign and under your disinterested advice, the prosperity of the State will be safe. We have the consolation that a minister who has come from the far west will be able to get over some of the time-honoured bureaucratic mistakes, against which we have been long raising our voices in this Council. The present Government has a good opportunity of earning the gratitude of the people of the country and I trust that they will be able to get over the usual difficulties which are the result of official mistakes and communal agitation. I wish the Travancore Government will kindly realise that the filling up of appointments and the distribution of offices to the different communities are not the end and aim of a civilised Government. What the people want is more roads, more railways,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

more food and a more useful system of public education and a readier recognition of the rights of the people to manage their own affairs. If you read the reports of the proceedings of the Popular Assembly and of the Legislative Council, you will find, Sir, that whenever the Government were about to take a wrong step, the representatives of the people pointed out the dangers and attempted to dissuade them from their erroneous course of action. But the Government who always take credit for having given us popular institutions would not admit their mistakes and naturally the evils have manifested themselves in a few years. They have been often obliged to eat their own words. This is because the Heads of the Departments manage to put before Government ideas of things in their wonted fashion. The Shertallai canal, the Vanchiyur School, the Police Circle Office system and the scheme of Assistant Tahsildars are instances in point. I am sorry, Sir, that the tax payers' money is wasted in doubtful schemes and clear mistakes. I trust that such things will not occur in the present administration.

Time and again have the members of this House brought the defects of the several departmental agencies to the notice of Government, but their voices have hitherto been a cry in the wildernesss. In the course of the budget discussion during 1922, I said : "The allotment for industries is mainly to utilise for providing for the pay and the establishment of the scientifically trained men." Mr. A. Govinda Menon pointed out the necessity for developing our industrial and commercial resources. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, one of the elected members of the Economic Development Board, who was then a member of this Council, moved a resolution that a committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to enquire into the working of the several Development Departments. It was supported by a number of members. The official members gave their usual explanation in the form of a narrative of what they had been doing all these years. The Director of Industries attempted to show that our Industries Department is in the same position and has only the same defects as they have in similar departments in British India. The mover of the resolution made a catalogue of mistakes committed by the Department of Industries such as the starting and abolition of pencil factory, screw-pine factory, apiary classes and jaggery factory. Mr. Velu Pillai asked the Director of Industries if he could tell the House whether similar mistakes had been committed either in Madras, Bombay, Bengal, Mysore or Baroda. But the Director, being unable to defend his position, simply said that it was not possible for him to deny all the defects. The so-called experts of the department have no work worth the name. I do not know if it is due to their incapacity or the want of encouragement on the part of Government. It is unfortunate that young men are being kept in these factories of official laziness. The Government Benches may maintain that they have been doing their best, and the rules of public service require that a head of the department should not give up the cause of his subordinates when their continuance is discussed

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

n the Council; but we shall not be satisfied with the usual argument hat the Tanning expert, the Oil expert, the Textile expert and a host of ther experts are still engaged in that never-ending scientific investigaion for which they take credit year after year. It is surely presumptuous n the part of these people to pretend to be performing scientific experiments day in and day out throughout the year, while omitting to take advantage of the results achieved in scientific manufacture in western countries. I should not have talked in this strain if these endless pretensions had been productive of a single result for the good of the people. I wish that the officers concerned will bear in mind that lectures and generalisations will not convince this side of the House. We want to be told how many industries have been newly started. We are glad to find from the budget estimate that the Government have allotted some money this year to help the cottage industries. The grants given to the industrial schools of the State are also very meagre.

I may in this connection point out that the Department of Agriculture does not fare much better. The agricultural demonstration farms are as much an unprofitable luxury as the screw-pine factory of the Industrial Department. The Cattle Farm at Perukadai is kept for the benefit of certain high officers to whom milk is sold at cheap rates. If an ordinary citizen asks for milk, he is told that there are numerous guests in Bhaktivilas and other places, the houses of friends and relations of officers and that there is no surplus. It would also be urged that the Kathiawar breed does not yield the quantity of milk expected of them. The officers spend much of their time airing out their imaginary grievances and paying repeated visits to their superiors. The department has no existence in the hearts of the people and its utility has yet to be established. I cannot understand why the officers should not form themselves into batches and visit the villages to put the people in the way of following their advice if such advice is useful. I am sorry the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries is not quite alive to this reform, even though he is one of those persons who used to deliver popular lectures a few years ago. In this department also, there would be the usual explanations of research and experiments. Experiments, Sir, would not appease hunger. The work of the Departments of Industries and Agriculture does not reach the mass of the people.

The Medical Department has also become the target of non-official attacks during the last few years. The medicines are paid for by the Government but they do not reach the poor people. During six months of the year, there is no supply in most of the hospitals and valuable medicines will be given to those who give some remuneration to the members of the staff. Even the poorest in-patients are often obliged to pay some money to the Medical Officer in charge. The contract for the supply of medicines has become quite a scandal. Old companies which were regularly supplying medicines for twenty and thirty years have been passed over in favour of inexperienced firms without sufficient standing merely because there was some influence somewhere. It is

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

said that the medicines are of a very poor quality and the Medical Officers do not find the desired effect in their prescription. The benefit of the allopathic system of medicine is not accessible to the rural population. I would suggest the establishment of travelling dispensaries in the various centres of the country.

Sir, with regard to the Medical Department, I have one more word to say. Chance of promotion is the first condition of honest and diligent work. I am not wanting in the spirit of justice and a reasonable spirit of chivalry and I do not wish to carry on any communal warfare but, standing here as the representative of the people of Trivandrum, I think it is my duty to point out that the treatment given to the senior officer of the Medical Department, Dr. Raman Tampi, is extremely unjust. Dr. Tampi's character, ability, kindness and diligence are acknowledged by all and he is deservedly made the medical adviser of the Political Agent and the Dewan, not to speak of the universal confidence that he enjoys in Travancore. He is a graduate of the Madras Universit and an M. D. of the University of Edinburgh. But Mr. Raghaviah's Government wished to keep him in the shunting line for ever and the lady officer in charge of the Women and Children's Hospital was put in charge of the Medical Department. Sir, we feel it is an insult offered to the manhood of the State.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid that this is not relevant to the subject matter of the financial statement.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The troubles in Travancore are the troubles arising from patronage. The administration has therefore to realise that, when there is efficiency and seniority combined, the appointments should always go by that rule and not by smiles or frowns. Favouritism in Travancore is assuming a dangerous shape. There are some people who hope to get on by flattering those in authority or by dancing attendance on them every day and by pretending to be their best admirers and faithful servants. The rules of transfer do not apply to them. Their vagaries, malpractices and mischief are before the public and they are not contradicted by Government. There are some subordinate officers who are kept in the capital as successful go-betweens with pleasant faces and wel-known unscrupulousness. Sir, the Financial Secretary spoke during the course of his speech about the abnormal rise in expenditure within a few years on education. We are glad Government is going to take steps to check this abnormal growth of expenditure. Large sums of money are spent annually for collegiate education, neglecting primary and vocational education. We have more Professors and Tutors in the Colleges than are absolutely necessary. Every day additional staff is added to these colleges on fat salaries to do six or seven hours' work in a week.

The supervising staff itself consumes a large amount annually. We have a Director of Education who does not know the languages of the country and who has no sympathy with the vernacular branch of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the department. Those who take their degrees in Sanskrit and the Vernaculars are treated with supreme contempt and indifference. For instance, the Lecturers in Sanskrit and Vernaculars are given smaller pay and lower status in both the Colleges even though they are equally qualified like other Professors. Persons with no knowledge of the languages of the country are sent out as Inspectors of Vernacular schools; so is the case with the Inspectress of Girls' schools. It is high time that Government took steps to revise the whole system of education.

The budget of income and expenditure is important from the standpoint of the public, and as our Government is as at present constituted, the welfare of the people depends on the honesty, capacity and diligence of the officers. I have therefore raised a few points for the consideration of the Government which is now guided by a patriotic Sovereign and an open-minded Dewan. I hope the serious problems will be wisely solved in the near future.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will it not be better if some of the official members speak now so that it may be of use to us while making our reply?

PRESIDENT: The official members will speak after the non-officials have finished. We will now adjourn till half past eleven on Monday morning, as there seem to be no more non-official members prepared for speaking to-day.

The House adjourned at 4-37 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on Monday.

T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly